

other site. You cannot get five officers in the Dominion of Canada to condemn the Dorval site and to endorse the Longueuil site. After I inspected the Longueuil site, I would not dream of erecting barracks on it; the entire staff of officers in Montreal and all the officers not of the staff in Montreal agreed to our proposition to change the site. In fact it was at their persistent demand we did so. As to reports in writing, we are not bothering about them.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It is very important.

Mr. HUGHES: My hon. friend speaks of reports of officers. Let me point out to him that my predecessor obtained reports on Farnham camp on one occasion. The story goes that a certain distinguished gentleman, the ex-Minister of Agriculture, had some friends in this House who had mortgages on a lot of swamp property around Farnham. It was supposed to be used for the raising of tobacco, but it had ceased to be used in that way. Consequently, these gentlemen could not get the amount of their mortgages out of the place. One gentleman said: 'Let us lay out a military camp there.' Reports were immediately forthcoming from two distinguished officers of the service that this was a magnificent site for a camp, and accordingly Farnham camp was unloaded on the Militia Department for a fabulous sum. Thus these gentlemen received a rake-off for the mortgages which they could not collect in any other way. I understand that both of them had held seats on the Liberal side of the House. My hon. friend cannot find an officer in the eastern townships, be he a Liberal or be he a Conservative, who will say that one can ride for a distance of a hundred yards in a straight line in Farnham camp without getting into a bog hole and running the risk of losing the shoes off his horse's feet. One of those officers who made the report was one day talking to a colonel and he said, 'Don't you think it will make a magnificent site?' The colonel replied, 'There is just one thing it lacks.' 'What is that?' said the officer. 'Why,' he says, 'It requires to be planked over.'

An hon. MEMBER: Was it Mr. Sydney Fisher?

Mr. HUGHES: Mr. Sydney Fisher, ex-Minister of Agriculture, certainly is credited with engineering the deal. As regards the Longueuil site, I can assure my hon. friend that it is not going to be abandoned,

to no purpose. That is one thing that my hon. friend can reckon his bottom sixpence on.

That property will be utilized to the best advantage for the militia and those parts which are swampy and which we cannot use for the militia we will hand over to the Marine Department. My hon. friend speaks of using the property at Dorval for rifle ranges. I would like my hon. friend not to make an exhibition of himself; he might as well talk of locating a rifle range in the city of Montreal. Rifle ranges must have special sites. I am sorry that is so because, unfortunately, it is impossible to give the militiamen of the country the sites that we would like them to have. We have a rifle range at Pointe aux Trembles which is not satisfactory because it takes nearly as long to get to it as to the Longueuil camp site. It takes the boys about forty minutes to get there and the same time to come home, and when they get to the ranges the afternoon is well advanced, and there is not much time left for shooting. There never was any intention of using the Dorval property for a rifle range. If my hon. friend had known anything at all about the business he would not have put that idea forward. It is intended to be used as a site for a school of instruction and not for a rifle range. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) is not in his place, but if he were here he would give my hon. friend the assurance that plans are ready. We have \$200,000 stowed away somewhere with which we can proceed, and there is a possibility that a sum will be placed in the Estimates for the construction of a military school at Dorval at an early date. However, I will be very glad to answer my hon. friend's questions and bring down the papers in due course.

Motion agreed to.

THE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

For a copy of all petitions and memoranda from commercial bodies or other parties in relation to the immediate construction of the Georgian Bay canal, and of all correspondence in connection with the same since September 21, 1911.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is well known that during the last recess numerous petitions and resolutions of boards of trade and different commercial bodies have been presented to the Government urging upon them the feasibility, nay, the necessity, of promptly commencing the construction of