

him as an officer though his record was not what that of an officer ought to be.

I looked up the record and I found that the report was absolutely correct, and that he was not a desirable man to whom a commission should be given. The officers are in a very difficult position. The Canadian permanent force is in a different position from the regular army. In the latter, men go into the field of battle, and when one distinguishes himself on the field he is given a commission at once, or shortly afterwards, for distinguished services. Opportunities in Canada are not nearly so great, and it is necessary for a man to rise in a different way. I am afraid sometimes they think they see a short cut to get a commission by log-rolling and bringing influence, political or otherwise, upon the minister. I think it would be subversive of discipline if anything like that were permitted or encouraged. As I said a moment ago, a man or a non-commissioned officer will serve his own interest best by attending to his duty and working out his salvation as best he can, instead of asking his friends to bring influence, political or otherwise, to bear upon the minister to get him a commission.

Mr. HERRON. I do not know whether the minister is aware of the trouble that occurred at Macleod a year or two ago. In that case I am afraid it was political rather than social distinction which had an influence, and caused a great deal of trouble in the Mounted Rifles of Macleod. I hope that has been made right, because I consider that one gentleman was treated very badly.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I remember the case, that has been made right.

Military properties—for an armoury for 5th Royal Scots, Montreal, \$30,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This is for the construction of an armoury for the 5th Royal Scots. The property is to be handed over to the government. The regiment is contributing about the same amount as the government. Several gentlemen in the city of Montreal whom I need not mention, have contributed a considerable sum of money to enable this regiment to have their armoury. A very fine armoury will be built for the two sums.

Grants to rifle associations—further amount required, \$4,000.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. I desire to bring to the notice of the minister the need for a rifle range in my own constituency. Four or five years ago the Militia Department undertook, at the request of some gentlemen who were very much interested in the matter, the construction of a rifle range in my constituency. There are several considerable large towns in my constituency, there is a good deal of military spirit there, and a large number of young men are exceedingly anxious about this matter, and they have been looking forward during these

years to having this rifle range constructed. I have received assurances from the department on several occasions during the last four years that some steps would be taken to provide it. But I have made up my mind that the rifle range is farther away to-day than it was four years ago. I have been pointing out to these young men that I had been from time to time conveying their request to the minister, because they seem to think that I was not doing all I could. I would like the minister to make a statement as to whether it is the intention of the department to proceed and construct this rifle range. I know that plans were prepared in the department some time ago, I know that these plans were not acted upon, I know also that these plans were changed; and I know, further, that these plans were still further changed. I do not know exactly where the matter stands now.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. My hon. friend (Mr. A. Johnston) wrote me a few days ago and I have made inquiries. I am bound to say that I supposed that rifle range was completed last year. I am told that the land has been selected, and that work is to be begun immediately.

Royal Military College—further amount required, \$2,000.

Mr. TISDALE. What is that for?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. For the purpose of facilitating the instruction in railway-construction it is proposed to lay down in the college grounds a few hundred feet of standard railway track.

Dominion Arsenal—further amount required, \$65,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is for an additional number of cartridges.

Defences of Esquimalt—further amount required, \$110,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We have voted \$110,000 in the main estimates in addition to this \$110,000. It will cost \$220,000 a year. The imperial authorities are to continue the maintenance of the fortress at Esquimalt until July 1st.

For preservation of site of Old Fort at Louisburg, Cape Breton, \$5,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The old historic fort at Louisburg is gradually disappearing and the provincial government of Nova Scotia suggested that if we would vote a certain amount they would vote a similar amount for the purpose of trying to some extent to restore or at any rate preserve whatever may be of interest there at the present moment.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence if any representations have been made to him in reference to a drill hall at Minnedosa. I may say that I noticed in last session's esti-