

Mr. WARD. Is this vote of \$95,000 over and above any fees received?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We get the fees back and that reduces the cost very considerably.

Mr. J. D. REID. With reference to this case at Halifax which the minister said was an impossible one, I have heard other men in charge of different companies out at drill complain about the food served at the camps. They are afraid, however, to kick, because these goods were supplied by friends of the government and they would get into trouble themselves. I have heard those stories and believe them to be true. In a case like that at Halifax, although the minister states that the paper which published it is not reliable, I think that he or some of his officers would not have been doing any too much if they had at once written to the man in charge of the regiment and found out what truth there was in the statement, if any. The minister and his deputy did not do their duty when they paid no attention to that. A matter of that kind affecting all those men is a very serious matter. We shall not have time this session to find out the truth in the Public Accounts but we will next session. But outside of that case altogether, there are other cases; and I am perfectly satisfied that the minister would, if he would state what he knows to be true, tell us that he has had complaints of the food furnished the men in the camps at different places.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. If any of these complaints are justifiable and if I were in the minister's place, the head would go off every officer in the force who had anything to do with inspecting the rations. Perhaps the hon. member does not know the routine. I have seen where quartermasters would stand in with the supply officers; but in addition to the quartermasters, there is the field officer of the day, who has the rank of colonel or major, who has to inspect the rations every morning. Then for every regiment there is a regimental officer, and for every company, a company officer, so that the food has to go through a series of inspections. Besides there is the field medical officer and also the regimental medical officer. Unless the officers are absolutely crooked or stupid, it is impossible that stuff not fit to eat could reach the men. If the hon. member had ever been in camp, he would know that the soldiers would kick in a second if they did not get good rations. That is the reason why, when I read this thing about Halifax, I thought the officers and men must be insane to pass such rations, or else they did not know the quality of the goods. The medical officer should detect anything of that kind in a moment. I was going to speak of the Royal Military College. I give the minister notice that at another sitting I intend to discuss the commandant of that college and the system of

discipline pursued there, what they used to term the commission of inquiry into conduct, but what I call the sweat-box system. It is no way to train young men to be manly and straightforward. So far as I am concerned, my vote will go against any man who maintains such a system and against the voting of any money to maintain it.

Mr. WARD. In following what the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes) has said, I wish to relieve the mind of my hon. friend from Grenville (Mr. J. D. Reid). What this committee has been told is exactly right—the men will not stand bad rations. I have had a great deal of experience in camp in the last forty years, both under this administration and under former administrations. As a rule, the rations were good. I can recall one instance several years ago when sour bread was furnished.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. In 1872.

Mr. WARD. Yes, under Conservative administration. The men had no fear of the contractor. They formed a line of three or four hundred feet long, and the bakers' apprentices who brought the bread had to run the gauntlet, the men pelting them with the bread. The next day the bread supplied was sweet. The food goes through a series of inspection, and there is very little danger that the men do not receive what is being paid for and what they are entitled to get.

Dominion Arsenal, \$350,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. Where is that?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. At Quebec.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why the increase?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is not really an increase. In other years there has been a vote in the supplementary estimates, but this year there will be none.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I ought to know, but I fear I do not. Is it the intention to continue the manufacture of the cartridge 303 as made to-day, or to adopt a modern cartridge, the sharp-pointed bullet? The United States have adopted this form, and the British government will probably adopt it, too, before the end of the century. The Canadian government should be in line and adopt the new pointed bullet. It has much greater initial velocity, lower trajectory and less windage. It is capable of much greater accuracy in firing.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have not lost sight of the subject. We have the report of an officer who has been in England and investigated the matter.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Did he make inquiry as to what has been done in England by private parties? Private companies in England have adopted this bullet.