

Sometimes it is easier to get through two small bites than one large bite; that often has been found to be the case in the past, and I would suggest that a second bite be taken in the supplementary estimates. I am sure it would be a welcome contribution to the system of experimental farms so well kept up for the last eight or ten years.

Mr. DUFF: What amount was expended last year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): While the information requested by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough is being looked up, I can only say to the hon. member for Melville that this reduction will not curtail the extension of any agricultural program which may be adopted. This is just to cover minor, casual repairs and improvements that come along from time to time. We think we can get through this year with that amount.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is a bad start.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am sorry, but the officer informs me that he has not the information as to the amount spent last year. However, we can get it.

Item agreed to.

Public buildings generally—military buildings—repairs, fittings and additions, \$50,000.

Mr. HANBURY: In connection with military buildings, I wish to direct the attention of the minister to the condition in Vancouver. He is probably quite familiar with the situation. I do not propose to criticize the expenditure he is making this year in connection with the rental of the horse show building, which is now used there, but it seems to me that the rental being paid is exorbitant. It cannot be avoided at the present time, but I do think it is very necessary for the government to consider the whole situation in regard to militia units in Vancouver. The government are paying \$9,000 at present for the horse show building, and I am informed that the purchase price of that building was approximately \$25,000 to \$27,000. There is no other building in Vancouver at present suitable. Now, housed in that building are military stores to the value of between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The place is nothing but a fire trap, and if the government are going to continue militia establishments at all they would most certainly be well advised to consider seriously the building of an armoury, to capitalize the sum that is paid now and to obviate the risk to this military equipment. I would suggest that the minister give that serious consideration. At present we have there other military units

[Mr. Motherwell.]

that are improperly housed. Under the present system of renting quarters it is practically impossible for them to better their condition, and again I suggest that if we are to continue militia units the government should consider some accommodation that would justify the efforts of these officers and men and the time they are putting in. We should give them quarters much more suitable than those they have at present.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This lease has been current for some years. I thank the hon. gentleman for his information, which will be taken into consideration. I should like to pass this item to-night, if possible.

Mr. NEILL: I wish to refer very briefly to the Shaughnessy hospital, which is in bad condition. It is a fire trap. I took the matter up with the Minister of Pensions and National Health and he indicated that there had been an attempt to reduce the fire risk by placing in another building some of the worst cases in the upper stories, and including in the estimates a substantial sum for rebuilding or repairing the place. Is there any vote for the Shaughnessy hospital concealed in this estimate?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): There is nothing in this estimate to cover the item to which the hon. member refers.

Mr. NEILL: But this is for military buildings—repairs.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is only repairs.

Mr. NEILL: Well, this building should be repaired; something should be done to it. It is really in a dangerous condition now. As I say, it is a fire trap. My hon. friend (Mr. Hanbury) is quite right when he refers to another building as being a fire trap for military stores. But surely where human life is concerned, the matter is much more serious.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I wish to endorse the remarks of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni with reference to the Shaughnessy hospital. I would impress upon the Minister of Pensions and, as well, upon the Minister of Public Works the necessity for a new military hospital in Vancouver. I think my recollection is correct, that the previous administration had prepared plans for a new military hospital there, and I wish to urge upon this government the importance of this undertaking.

Mr. BENNETT: They did not vote the money for it.