

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). It is my intention that all contracts shall be let by public tender, and that the goods shall be thoroughly inspected. If inferior goods are passed the inspector will have to suffer, and he will be held responsible.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I suppose it is too much to ask that the same rule should be applied to the inspectors who have passed improper goods and proved faithless in the past. The hon. gentleman is really continuing the system that has proved ineffective in the past. The ex-Minister has expressed the opinion that these were minor matters, that he entrusted them to an inspector and other officials, and that he as Minister was not responsible. The new Minister must have observed from the tone of the remarks made by hon. members that such an excuse could be offered at a future day, and that he must adopt some effective measures to remedy this evil. This is not a matter of politics, but of the efficiency of a vital arm of the service. We all desire that this evil should be removed if possible, and some system should be adopted by which the department will not be imposed on in the future as it has been in the past.

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). My information in regard to boots is exactly what I have stated to my hon. friend: that where unsuitable boots were supplied a new issue of boots were obtained in lieu thereof. It is my intention to recommend the appointment of a quartermaster-general, who will inspect the inspectors and supervise the stores and everything of that kind. I trust we shall be able to obtain the service of a man of standing and character, and that he will perform efficient service for the benefit of the militia.

Mr. McMULLEN. What disposal of the rubbish will be made—useless boots and clothing referred to in the report?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). I have not decided on that point. I intend to have every local inspector furnish a detailed statement of all stores belonging to the department in the different establishments. Articles that are useless will be sold by auction, for they occupy space and require the attention of caretakers.

Mr. McMULLEN. In the Auditor-General's Report, page F—167, I find that condemned stores were sold and realized \$1,110, but the expenses were \$114. That seems to be a considerable percentage to pay.

Mr. FOSTER. They were sold in different lots and in different parts of the country.

Mr. McMULLEN. Will all the rubbish be gathered at one place and there be all sold?

Mr. BERGIN. That is all nonsense. It would not pay the freight to remove rubbish from one part of the country to another.

Mr. LISTER. What amount was voted for this service last year?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). The Estimates this year are submitted with such particular detail that I cannot fairly compare them with the Estimates of last year. They are framed on a different basis. We have made a new departure in the Militia Department, and every item is now placed under its proper heading and there is no grouping of items, a change that will prove of advantage to the House. The whole cost for stores, transportation and freight, as compared with last year, involves an increase of \$1,857. I cannot give item for item compared with last year. One of the objects we have in view is to have every item under its proper heading, so that the House and the country may be informed as to the sums voted for particular purposes and the manner in which they are expended.

Mr. LISTER. What items does the hon. gentleman include under "warlike and other stores"?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). We propose, each year, for five years, to take a small amount to improve our field artillery. It is proposed to establish repairing depots at one or two places, possibly Quebec and Toronto, to repair the equipments after camp. It has been found that saddlery and such like have become comparatively useless after camp, and it is proposed that these articles shall be collected at one or two centres and properly repaired, so that possibly a considerable saving may be effected.

Mr. DENISON. I think that the new arrangement of the items is an improvement, but I would like to see it so arranged that we could discover exactly the amount the permanent corps cost, and what is spent on the militia. It could be easily done in the department, but it is difficult to make it out in its present shape.

Mr. LISTER. Are the saddles made under contract? What is the name of the contractor?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). It is by contract for a certain number of saddles, but I forget the name of the contractor.

Mr. LISTER. Why does the hon. gentleman ask \$20,000 for field artillery and equipments?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). This is a new vote. It is intended to ask a similar sum for a period of five years in order to get us proper field artillery.

Mr. LISTER. Where do you get them? Have you made any contract?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). No; I believe we will have to get them from Great Britain.

Mr. BORDEN. I would like to ask the Minister who makes out the requisition for