

SUPPLY—PURCHASE OF MILITIA CAMP AT KENTVILLE, N.S.—*Con.*

Black, J. B. (Hants)—6657.

I demand the authority from which Hughes is reading. I want to know the name of the paper—6657.

Borden, Hon. Sir Frederick (Minister of Militia and Defence)—6661.

It is to-day in the hands of the Exchequer Court as a result of the Militia Department having taken possession—6660. Judge Burbidge named a proper officer to take evidence on the point—6661. Mr. Roscoe, I have heard, was the lawyer employed by the owners of the land—6662. I doubt very much the propriety of bringing of matters of this kind here while it is still sub judice—6663. The camp ground at Kentville is one of the best, if not the best, in the Dominion of Canada to-day—6664. I do know that the engineers in my department are exceedingly useful in all such matters—6665. I think he has visited a lot of lands which he could not buy for \$600 an acre—6666. You have to go down there and see it—6667. Hughes know that an item was reserved in the estimates—6670. I shall be glad to lay the judgment, the evidence and all the papers connected with the case on the table of the House—6671. The whole matter was handed over to the Department of Justice, and it went out of the hands of the Militia Department—6679.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—6661.

The matter was referred to Mr. Crawley for the purpose of taking the evidence and reporting a value to the court—6661. The Crown appealed and the judge sent back the case to Mr. Crawley for further inquiry and report—6664. The Exchequer Court does not initiate the procuring of evidence—6672. I have been practising in the Exchequer Court a good many years, and I never heard of one—6675. When counsel for the Crown raises objection, there is a most ample power for the judge; every one knows that—6676.

Boyce, A. C. (West Algoma)—6658.

What was the total amount paid by Dodge and Wickwire?—6658.

Belcourt, Hon. N. A. (Ottawa)—6670.

He may order either a new reference or a hearing of evidence before himself as Exchequer Court judge—6670.

Emmerson, Hon. H. R. (Minister of Railways and Canals)—6663.

Was there a ballot box missing in that instance?—6663. I do not know the facts. I have heard of that, as I have heard of the St. Charles Brench case—6670.

Fielding, Hon. Wm. S. (Minister of Finance)—6666.

Don't forget Quebec—6666. Why does Bennett assume that the government agreed to pay \$60 an acre for it?—6667. The fact undoubtedly would be investigated by Judge Burbidge, and it would have what-

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ever weight it was entitled to—6668. I assume that evidence was brought forward as to the proper price to pay for the land—6672. He can take any machinery he likes to get the information, and I presume Judge Burbidge will do that—6673. I do not know that we have any access to the court which is not open to Hughes—6678.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—6657.

He does not get any profit—6657. Would Borden state what were the first steps taken in order to get hold of this land, and when they were taken?—6662. There were a good many arguments to back that up in your county, were there not?—6663. Borden might, in justice to the House, lay on the table whatever papers in connection with the matter he has—6665. Borden will see that when the judgment is delivered that will end it—6671. If anything ever smelt like a plant this does, and Borden will not do his duty unless he finds out what the land cost—6672. I do not think the government has quite cleared itself; its skirts are not clean, if that be the correct statement of the case—6673. What I wanted to have was, if possible, a promise not to pay that amount of money with the acquiescence of the government—6679.

Foster, Hon. John G. (South Lanark)—6670.

Perhaps Emmerson would be informed on that point—6670.

Hughes, Sam. (Victoria and Haliburton)—6656.

I think it is proper that we should have an explanation, the best possible Borden (Sir Frederick) can give—6656. Gives records of sales of the land—6657-8. This amount of \$25,000 expended on the rifle ranges is from \$6,000 to \$7,000 above the contract price—6659. What explanation can Borden give for paying \$50 to \$60 an acre for land, the average price of which was only \$6.20 per acre?—6660. Would Borden have any objection to say what connection Crawley, of Wolfville; McIlreith, of Halifax; Moscoe, of Kentville, had with this matter?—6661-2. Would Mr. Justice Burbidge be in a position to know if this land had been purchased for this price?—6668. When certain gentlemen happen to be out of the House the estimates are then quietly slipped through 6670. I would like Borden to bring down the name of the owner of these 640 acres 6671. Would Fielding be good enough to obtain the evidence in connection with this report?—6678.

Lancaster, A. (Lincoln)—6669.

Is it not a fact that the judge will take no evidence except such as is brought before he referee?—6669. The judge does not hear original evidence; he simply goes on evidence taken by the referee—6670. Certainly the Court of Appeal may in its discretion grant a new trial, but it does not act on that discretion—6678.