

but in that kind of work he is merely a foreman in charge of the men, yet instead of getting two and a half per cent as when he does not prepare plans, he gets seven and a half per cent.

Toronto drill hall—additional accommodation for new corps, \$150,000.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. That work is under way?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Were the plans prepared at Ottawa?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The same applies to the barracks for the permanent corps?

Mr. FISHER. Yes; those plans have been prepared, but they are not yet authorized.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I would like the minister to tell us whether the government intend to go on with these barracks, or what is their policy in regard to them?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Two or three years ago the land was acquired. The expenditure involved is very heavy, and we made arrangements with the city by which the present barracks could be occupied for a time; and it was thought, in view of the heavy expenditures which are being carried on in Canada, that we might take a reasonable time to construct these buildings. I understand that now the acting Minister of Public Works, with his officers and the officers of the Militia Department, are going carefully over the plans, with a view to determining just the kind of buildings to be constructed.

Toronto military buildings—magazine, \$3,000.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Is that to be built this year?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Toronto military buildings—barracks for permanent corps, to replace property sold to the city, \$50,000.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. What does the minister propose to do with this preliminary \$50,000, and when does he intend to spend it?

Mr. FISHER. The moment the plans are completed and approved by the Militia Department and by the Public Works Department we shall advertise for tenders.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Are those plans prepared?

Mr. FISHER. Plans have been sketched, and an officer of the Militia Department and an officer of the Public Works Department have been going over these plans with myself to see what could be done in the way of perfecting them. The whole

Mr. U. WILSON.

scheme involves a considerable number of buildings. The first thing will be to choose out one or two buildings and go on with them, and afterwards add to them as the Militia Department thinks best. The first buildings will perhaps cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It is not intended that all the buildings for the permanent corps will be built at once.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Is there a prospect of their being commenced this year?

Mr. FISHER. I do not see any reason why the contracts for one or two of them should not be let this year.

Mr. SPROULE. What are they expected to cost exactly?

Mr. FISHER. That will depend on the nature of the plans, which are not yet completed; but probably \$400,000 or \$500,000.

Mr. SPROULE. Would it not be an evidence of business wisdom to reach some conclusion as to what you intend to do before you go on and take a vote of \$50,000?

Mr. FISHER. We have done that.

Mr. SPROULE. But you can give the House no idea of what the buildings will cost. You only ask the House for money.

Mr. FISHER. This whole scheme has been decided upon, but the details as to how it shall be carried out have not yet been worked out. Plans have been discussed and sketches made, which are tentative in their character.

Mr. SPROULE. They may be tentative in their character, but the hon. gentleman knows whether the buildings will cost \$100,000, \$300,000, \$500,000 or \$1,000,000.

Mr. FISHER. When the whole scheme is finished, the cost will be certainly over half a million, very likely three-quarters of a million; but I cannot say how quickly that will be done. It will depend largely on the necessities and the demands of the Militia Department. The scheme, as first sketched out, would involve a cost of a million dollars. We are now at work seeing how much we can cut that down, and, judging from conversations which I have had with officers of the Militia Department, there is no doubt that we can reduce that by 25 per cent., perhaps by 30 or 40 per cent.

Mr. MONK. As there is not an approximate estimate of what this work will cost, I think the committee, in view of the importance of this item, might reasonably ask to see those sketches.

Mr. FISHER. The sketches are so entirely tentative that I would not like to bring them before the committee. They will have