

Mr. FISHER. The site has been purchased, the plans are all prepared, and tenders will be asked for probably within a few weeks.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. When will the building be completed and ready for occupation?

Mr. FISHER. I hope the contracts will be awarded within a month, and I think a year from this spring the building will be completed.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Has the minister any information as to how the regiments will be provided for in the meantime?

Mr. FISHER. No, that would come under the Militia Department.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. What will be the probable total cost of the building?

Mr. FISHER. About \$80,000.

St. Johns military buildings—stables for cavalry, \$7,000.

Mr. MONK. Are there any stables there now?

Mr. FISHER. I think only a temporary stable. There was a cavalry school there, but they had no cavalry stables, and had to build some.

Mr. MONK. Is the department in possession of any estimate as to the cost of these stables?

Mr. FISHER. Not a detailed estimate. There is a requisition sent in by the Militia Department.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Has the department under consideration the disposal or exchange of this property?

Mr. FISHER. Not the Department of Public Works.

Mr. MONK. For what number of horses is accommodation needed here?

Mr. FISHER. For one school, I think about 100.

Mr. ALCORN. Would the minister explain this item of \$322.89 for advertising St. John public buildings?

Mr. FISHER. Advertising for tenders.

Mr. ALCORN. In what papers?

Mr. FISHER. Local and other papers in Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, and I do not know how far west.

Three Rivers drill hall, \$15,000.

Mr. FISHER. This is under contract; nearly completed.

Mr. MONK. What is the amount of the contract?

Mr. FISHER. \$52,500, and the total cost will probably be about \$70,000.

Mr. MONK.

Mr. DANIEL. How many different corps is the building expected to accommodate?

Mr. FISHER. My notes do not tell me that.

Mr. MONK. There is only one corps at Three Rivers.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. I think there is one regiment of four companies.

Mr. MONK. What will bring the cost up from \$50,000 to \$70,000?

Mr. FISHER. The contract is \$52,500, and there is the additional work of laying a mastic floor, \$1,100, making \$53,600. Then there is \$1,425 for heating boilers, \$2,000 for electric wiring and fixtures, \$5,000 for fittings and furniture, \$3,000 for sidewalk and fences, \$2,300 for contingencies and superintendence, and nearly \$2,000 for printing and advertising, and supervision of the architect in Three Rivers.

Mr. MONK. I know it is a very invidious task to criticise any expenditure for public buildings, but knowing Three Rivers as I do, if it is to accommodate one regiment composed of four companies, it seems to me a very large expenditure. I doubt very much if the business population would not have preferred to seeing that amount of money spent in improving the port and giving greater facilities to that port in view of the large trade which the back country is developing just now. I doubt very much if the people would not have preferred that kind of expenditure to so abnormal an expenditure on the drill hall. I know there is a great desire generally to erect a public building in a constituency, but I think that in most cases, but certainly in this one, the expenditure would have been wiser if it had been even greater, but applied to a more practical object.

Mr. FISHER. I suppose the militia people want this drill hall.

Mr. MONK. No, I do not think that probably in this case that is what has happened. It is generally the sitting member who wants to erect a monument to himself—I do not say it is so in this case—and have his name placed on a post office or public building. But very often it seems to me that expenditures, perhaps less calculated to reflect undying glory upon the member, but more useful to the constituency might be made.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. I asked the minister if the department had in contemplation the removal of the dragoons from St. Johns, Quebec. My reason for asking was that in the 'Star' to-night there appears an article as follows:

Want barracks for seminary purposes.

St. Johns deputation will ask government to remove dragoons.—Many citizens opposed.—It