

and I have been seriously considering whether I should not put a vote in the estimates to pay the customs duty on that class of articles, in addition to the guns, etc., which we import. In bringing in these instruments the boys have to pay the duty out of their own pockets.

Mr. CARVELL. I think that in the past the band instruments for purely regimental bands have been allowed in free of duty; at least that was the law years ago.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Yes, but that has all been changed.

Mr. MACDONALD. I would support the minister if he would give us more music and less automobiles.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). No, we will have 24 more automobiles next year.

Mr. KAY. Would the minister state whether there is any provision made for giving the cadets rifle practice in their camps?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). That is the intention.

Mr. KAY. I wish to make a suggestion with regard to the annual training, and that is that the officers be compelled to take the rifle practice.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). It is now optional with the officers to take rifle practice.

Mr. KAY. I think not.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I think that an officer can take it if he chooses. Above all things an officer should not only be able to teach his men, but to show his men how to shoot. I will look into the matter and let the hon. gentleman know, and if it is not the case I will promise him that it will be the case.

Mr. KAY. In the last four years in the camp at Farnham the officers have been refused rifle shooting.

Mr. CARVELL. There is another matter that I want to bring to the attention of the minister specifically, and that is the grant to these rifle associations. I have stated here to-night, and I wish to reiterate, that in my opinion the only real benefit we get from this expenditure is in the efficiency achieved by the men in rifle shooting. We only spend \$58,000 on bands and associations altogether. In my opinion, the only real training which the militia enjoy is in rifle shooting. That is the important thing, and while we are spending some money in teaching these men how to shoot at camps of instruction, and possibly also spending some money at the different rifle clubs, it strikes me that in order to keep up the interest in rifle shooting you have

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

to have regular associations, and in that way the men become proficient to some extent. The object of every rifle club and of all training in the militia is to qualify a man to be an expert shot. You may say that the man does not go there for the money he gets, but notwithstanding that, we must remember that many of the best shots in the country are not wealthy men, but that as a rule they are poor men and the men who would have the greatest interest in rifle shooting are the men who really feel that the prizes they can win mean something to them. They are an inducement to the rich man as well as to the poor man. When you consider the enormous amount of money we are spending on the militia you will, I am sure, agree that we can afford to increase the grant to encourage rifle shooting. I do not know whether we have increased the amount in the last 25 years or not.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Very little.

Mr. CARVELL. Very little, if any. A great many years ago when I was younger, I took an interest in rifle shooting and used to attend the meeting of the provincial rifle association. My recollection is that the association received \$1,300. However, with the increase of the militia estimates from \$3,000,000 to \$8,000,000 there has not been a proportionate increase in the branch of education which really should be encouraged, and that is rifle shooting. I think the minister might very well increase the grant even if he has to cut down something else.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I was the father of a proposal, and now it is coming back to me, and I am asked to carry into practice the theory which I advanced while in opposition long years ago. At the present time the great meeting in Canada for competition in rifle shooting is the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association meeting. It is absolutely impossible for men to come here from a distance and compete. The people of Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston, and others living in places within easy distance of the ranges enjoy a great advantage over those who live at a distance. The chance of winning the King's prize at Bisley is the hope of every rifleman in Canada and, while I appreciate the assistance given by the provincial rifle associations to rifle shots to come here and take part, those who live in the maritime and the western provinces are handicapped as compared with those who live in Ontario and Quebec. The proposition I have made is that we should pay the transportation expenses of one man who has never won a prize in the Dominion Rifle Association matches from each corps. I think that would encourage the boys to practise at home and to compete for the privilege