

## Superintendent Dominion Ordnance.

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These last four are employed for their special scientific and general knowledge Colonel Greville Harston is an ex-imperial officer, and was at one time employed by the British government in doing some work in connection with converting one type of small arms to another. I believe these men are able, conscientious and determined to do their duty. Some of them are now at Quebec testing carefully an improved. I suppose it might be called, or a modified Ross rifle. As the result of what has happened; as a result of the reports which have been made, and information which has been gained, the contractor, with the assistance of members of the Militia Department, has thought it desirable to make certain changes, and before the manufacture of the new order for 10,000 rifles is begun this modified form of rifle will be thoroughly tested. Already many valuable tests have been made, but I shall not go into that; I am not an expert, and I know my hon. friend (Col. Hughes) will take that up when he has an opportunity of speaking. Suffice it to say that every effort has been made, and has been done from the first, to secure the manufacture of the very best rifle. I have been told by some men who were supposed to be somewhat critical of the rifle as first issued that they believe it is a remarkably good rifle. Certainly the shooting that has been done all over the country with the new rifle sent out by Sir Charles Ross himself (none have been issued by the department yet) has been remarkable. Most extraordinary shooting was made here a few days ago by the Ottawa member of the committee. I overlooked one thing which I would like to say before I conclude. The hon. member, in his speech to-day, referred to two friends of his, I suppose who had been saying nasty things about the Ross rifle. He gave the name of one as Luther R. Henry Burns, a former employee of the rifle factory, and the other he gave as J. H. Stanton, of St. Catharines, also an ex-employee. I know nothing about the former man, Mr. Burns, although I would think it somewhat undesirable for a member occupying such a prominent place as the hon. member does as an officer of the militia and as a member of this parliament, to read letters from a disappointed or dismissed employee.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Without any date.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Mr. Stanton—I do not want to do him any harm—wrote letters to me, and they were sent to the Ross rifle company and were answered. I do not know whether the answers were published or not, but they are on the file of

the return I brought down. He also wrote to the Prime Minister, and I find this letter in the return I brought down last session, and part of which has been printed in No. 5 of the reports of the Public Accounts Committee. But this letter seems to have escaped somebody's eagle eye, and so I shall read it. Mr. Boudreau, then the Prime Minister's secretary, had evidently written a letter to my late deputy, Colonel Pinault, who had sent him Stanton's letter, and this is Colonel Pinault's reply:

"Ottawa, February 2, 1906."

Dear Mr. Boudreau,—With reference to the attached letter from Mr. J. H. Stanton, of St. Catharines, I would suggest that the premier should give very little of his time to this man. He has written several letters to this department, and for some reason perhaps known to himself, he refuses to accept as true what I have told him as regards the Ross rifle factory being a private concern. He has been told that we have nothing to do with the management of the company, and that all that we are concerned about is obtaining arms up to the standard for which the company have entered into a contract with the government, as to which our inspector is the judge.

Stanton was an employee of the company, and as is not infrequent when a man has been dismissed, he is disgruntled. He is known to have offered a bribe to have an invention of his own helped on, from which fact alone, he is hardly a man to be taken seriously when he preaches honesty.

The grounds I have taken in answering his letters are that such questions as the foreman's keeping the laborers waiting until he sees fit to give them work are for the company and not this department to deal with; that what we are concerned about is that the rifles they turn out are according to pattern.

Very truly yours,  
(Sgd.) L. F. PINAULT.

Rodolphe Boudreau, Esq.,

Private Secretary to the Premier, Ottawa, Ontario.

In conclusion, I observe that the motion before you refers to 'the dealings of the Department of Militia and Defence in connection with the adoption and manufacture of the Ross rifle' and so on. Well, I have pointed out so far as I could the dealings. I do not quite know what the mover of the motion means by using that phrase. There were no dealings as to the adoption or as to the manufacture of the Ross rifle which were not absolutely straightforward and above board. I have given the reasons for encouraging the establishment of this factory in Canada. I have given the reason first of high policy, of imperial policy, and of policy which would properly safeguard