

and sidewalks. Twenty-five thousand dollars seems to be a good deal to pay out for gradings and sidewalks in connection with one building.

Mr. J. D. REID: This amount is required to cover the cost of waterproofing the basement walls, asphalt floors in the main hall, sidewalks and gradings, \$21,500; superintendence, \$3,500; total \$25,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When was this drill hall started?

Mr. J. D. REID: The building was completed in 1914. This work that we are now providing for has been held up during the war.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is it customary to put concrete pavings in drill halls?

Mr. J. D. REID: It is the custom to put in asphalt floors, yes.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Was this building sufficiently advanced to be used during the war?

Mr. J. D. REID: Yes, the Militia had it in use.

Mr. COPP: To what use is it being put now?

Mr. J. D. REID: It is under the charge of the Militia Department. In the re-organization of the Militia I suppose they will use it for militia purposes.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This building, the minister says, was used for militia purposes during the war. To spend \$25,000 now to put it into shape seems to be a poor sort of economy.

Mr. J. D. REID: The building was not completed owing to the large war expenditures, but it cannot be left in its present state; it will have to be completed.

Mr. COPP: A great many demands for public buildings throughout Canada have to be refused because of the lack of money. Now, here is a drill hall that was finished in 1914. If during the war, when troops were quartered there, this building could get along without the grading and paving and sidewalks that are now proposed to be put in, it seems to me that this appropriation might well be devoted to the erection of public buildings in some other places where they are really needed. My hon. friend says that this building is being used for militia purposes. No soldiers are quartered there; there is no general militia work going on; there are no training camps in the vicinity. There seems to be no use for the building. Why spend

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

\$25,000 at this time to put down sidewalks and pavings around this drill hall? I think the minister should give the committee a little more information before this item passes.

Mr. J. D. REID: The Militia Department have asked that this building be completed. There is water in the cellar and if something is not done the building may be injured or destroyed. Besides, it is the custom to complete the sidewalks and grading around all public buildings. We are only completing work that must be done in connection with this building if it is to be used at all.

Mr. COPP: Does my hon. friend want us to understand that there is water in the cellar because there is no sidewalk around the building? Does he want us to understand that during the past six years there has been water in the cellar and no proper drainage was put in when the building was constructed? The town of Amherst adjoins my own town, and from the information I have it does seem to me that if for six years we could get along without a sidewalk and without cement paving around this magnificent building we might get along for a year or two longer and use this money in places where its application is badly needed.

Sydney Quarantine Station—repairs and improvements, \$5,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I understand that the minister has received a great many requests this year for the enlargement of this quarantine station. It has always been too small, and I hope that it will be made larger as soon as possible. As a matter of fact a new station would be much in the public interest.

Mr. J. D. REID: We have decided not to go on with any new works during the present year if we can possibly avoid it. We are merely putting in the votes for upkeep and trying to keep the buildings that we have in as good repair as possible pending the making of extensions or the erection of such new buildings as may be necessary.

St. John—Dominion buildings—improvements, etc., \$7,000.

Mr. COPP: What are the buildings to which this vote is to be applied?

Mr. J. D. REID: Post office on Prince William street; customs house on Prince William street; old post office on Prince William street; savings bank on Princess