

members for that district favour it; the minister favours it, so why should there be any delay?

Item agreed to.

Manitoba

Dauphin public building—addition, \$7,500.

Emerson—building for customs and immigration purposes, \$32,500.

Transcona—public building, \$20,000.

Winnipeg—hospital for Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, \$250,000.

Winnipeg—immigration building No. 1—improvements and repairs, \$6,500.

Winnipeg public building—improvements and alterations, \$16,000.—\$332,500.

Mr. GUTHRIE: A very substantial part of this amount is to be spent for a D.S.C.R. hospital in Winnipeg, but I do not know why such a hospital is necessary there nine or ten years after the war. There was a time when the department operated a very up-to-date hospital in that city; that building is still in existence and is now part of the Osborne barracks. I understand that it is a wonderfully equipped hospital, but has an average of only about six patients per day. Why it should be necessary to erect a new hospital for the department is something I do not understand, and I think the minister will have to explain this item to some extent. It is also said that a large medical staff is being carried in connection with the work of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and in Winnipeg it is supposed that that staff will be made permanent if this item goes through. Why not use the Osborne barracks hospital, which is a military hospital practically unused and modern in every respect, instead of spending \$250,000 on a new structure at this time?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I regret that my colleague the Minister of Health is not here at present; he would be able to give the reason perhaps better than I can. However, my recollection is fairly accurate, and I think the hospital to which my hon. friend refers has been taken over by the militia, so that other provision must be made for the patients now being looked after in civic hospitals. They have notified the Department of Health that the accommodation in the local hospitals is such that they can no longer accommodate the departmental patients, and other accommodation must be provided.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is abundant room in the Osborne barracks hospital. It was built as a department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment hospital and, when there was no further use for it or not sufficient use to main-

tain it as a hospital, the patients were transferred to the civic hospital. It has been used as a military hospital by the permanent forces ever since the transfer, and there is an average of six military patients in it. I am informed that there is abundant room in it for all Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment patients now in the civic hospital, and we could save \$250,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT: My information is that the property has not been utilized for hospital purposes for some time.

Mr. BENNETT: But it is available?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It has been taken over by the militia department and is being utilized for their purposes. It has not been available for hospital purposes for some time. There are approximately two hundred patients in Winnipeg for whom hospital accommodation must be provided. Accommodation is provided for sixty patients at Deer Lodge, and 140 are provided for in the civic hospital. The civic hospital has given the department notice that they require all their accommodation and can no longer continue to accommodate the department's patients there.

Item agreed to.

Calgary—grain inspection building, \$2,500.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not object to this amount, but I would remind the Minister of Public Works, after receiving the return showing the amount of rental paid in Calgary for buildings used for government purposes, that he should give serious consideration to the erection of a new post office.

Item agreed to.

Rents, repairs, furniture, heating, et cetera—Ottawa public buildings and grounds—Dominion public building, \$316,500.

Mr. GARDINER: I should like to say a word or two about the sidewalks which have been constructed around the parliament buildings. The minister brought down a return regarding the contract, and I notice it calls for an inch and a half finish. If the minister examines the sidewalks I think he will find that the finish is very much less than that; I would say it is not more than a quarter of an inch. I should like to inquire of the minister if that is the manner in which such public works are usually carried out. If so we certainly are not getting value for our money.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The return which was furnished to my hon. friend some time ago shows that the contract provides that if the work is not done in accordance with the specifications the contractor will make it good.