

they could have had a total of 7,460 square feet in the old building, and according to their own figures they went into a place where they have only 8,671 feet, so that is a mere bagatelle larger. In addition they went into a building that has only two outside walls, back and front, whereas the building they left had three outside walls. There must have been some other reason behind the action taken than the desire for a little more space. I also understand that a petition was circulated. I did not see it; it was taken around while I was in the old country, but I believe the petition was signed by the large majority of the merchants in that community. I am further sure that if they had gone to the residents of that community whose children did go to the old station "L" on St. Clair avenue, west of Oakwood avenue, they would have found the citizens of the community would have signed a petition against moving it. Certainly there is little excuse for changing the post office from west to east of Oakwood avenue.

Mr. EULER: In reply I can only reiterate what I said the other evening when these estimates were under consideration, except perhaps to add that there seems to have been a difference, not of opinion, but as to certain facts. I said the other evening that under the old contract we were paying for the former building at the rate of ninety-five cents per square foot, and that the new contract is at the rate of seventy-eight cents.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is 78·8.

Mr. EULER: Make it seventy-nine, and be generous about it. Then, much to my surprise, the hon. member said that the additional space had been offered free by the owner of the former building.

Mr. MacNICOL: To-night I said \$50 a month.

Mr. EULER: To-night he has corrected it to the extent of saying that the proprietor asked an additional \$50 a month. That was an important point in my mind, and I had inquiries made. The result is that I find there is nothing whatsoever in the department which offers the space either free or at any definite figure. That being the case, I simply have to assume that if he offered the additional space, and did not indicate the figure of \$50, it would be offered at the same rate we were paying, namely ninety-five cents per square foot. Under those circumstances we were getting new premises at the rate of seventy-eight cents per square foot. The fact that we obtained a very large additional space of 3,016 feet, which gave us 8,671 feet in the new

[Mr. MacNicol.]

premises, as compared with 5,655 in the old; the fact that the department needed more space at that point, and the additional fact that we were getting it at seventy-eight cents instead of ninety-five cents per square foot, would seem to be sufficient reason for making the change. I am afraid I can add nothing further.

Mr. MacNICOL: I quite appreciate that had the acting minister been the Postmaster General, he would have done as any other business man would have done, namely, have inquired if the owner of the building had more space available. Had the Postmaster General looked up the correspondence which took place when the former Conservative government was in office, he would have found on file letters from the owner offering an additional store space, 18 by 40 feet, or 720 square feet. As I said before, it was only a night or two before I went away that I heard of the proposed change. At that time the owner came to see me to find out if I knew anything about it. I said I did not, but I would telephone the Minister of Public Works. I believe I wired him and, following that, wrote him, to get the information.

Apparently at that time no contract had been signed. I understood from the owner at that time that sooner than lose the government as a tenant—because, paying regularly, the government is a good tenant—he would include the store with the post office at the same money. I took the trouble on Saturday morning last to write to Toronto to find out if I was right in making that statement. I received a letter back from the owner telling me that he would have asked \$50 more.

Mr. EULER: He would have?

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes.

Mr. EULER: But did he? Did he actually make that offer?

Mr. MacNICOL: I do not know. Did the government ask him if they could have more space?

Mr. FACTOR: Does he own the property which the hon. member says he offered to rent to the government?

Mr. MacNICOL: The government has been his tenant for ten years, since the building was built under the direction of the former Liberal government.

Mr. FACTOR: Extra space?

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes. I am sure the hon. member for Spadina knows the building well; I refer to the one at the corner of Appleton and St. Clair avenues. The former post office