

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. GEORGE: Canada is growing.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Fleming asked a question about a \$40,000 grant in aid for the Sea Island school. At one time the financial encumbrance was sent to us on that \$40,000, but we never had any negotiations in respect to that school at all. I understand it was done by the Department of National Defence. All I can report is that we do not know anything about it. There was some sort of deal made by defence on that.

The CHAIRMAN: I thought that was your question. It will be answered by someone else.

By Mr. Applewhaite:

Q. Mr. Chairman, may I ask three questions on schools. Have you the overall construction cost figure per pupil?—A. It would be about \$1,000.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the same figure for the present construction as undertaken by school boards?—A. It would vary. In Manitoba, by building schools which are economical—I will put it that way—I think they have the cost down to \$500 or \$600. I would think that in Ontario and in British Columbia the cost was of the order of \$1,000.

Q. And the other question I wanted to ask was, what is the estimated average lifetime for the schools you are building now.—A. I can see no reason to believe that the schools, frame or masonry, will not be satisfactory schools 50 years hence, unless the vogue in schools changes as greatly from the present ones as it has from the ones I attended.

Q. But you are building for 50 years service?—A. Yes. They are good buildings. There is nothing skimped on them at all, and I believe that these are buildings which will last with proper maintenance.

The CHAIRMAN: Just while we are talking about schools, you will forgive me if I take advantage of you as an authority. There is something troubling me respecting the matter of schools. I gather you are saying in effect that our costs are about the same as the board of education expenditure in Ontario and British Columbia.

The WITNESS: After allowance for the outlying area and the nature of the job.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Talking about the lifetime of schools, it may interest the committee to know that I went to a school 50 years ago which cost \$500 for 25 pupils, and it is in good condition, and in use today.

The CHAIRMAN: Someone who is in that school now will say the same thing 50 years hence, perhaps even in this room.

Mr. ADAMSON: Except the part about the \$500.

The CHAIRMAN: That will have changed. But, what is troubling me is that the boards of education in my province, and I think it is true in most provinces, are always accused of being extravagant with their money in building these alleged palatial schools. The Department of National Defence and the Central Mortgage and Housing with a world of experience, are building for about the same cost. Now, what becomes of the suggestion that these boards of education particularly in Ontario are extravagant. It doesn't make sense.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: Are you mining for the school board?

The CHAIRMAN: No, I was always a member of the council, never a member of the school board, but I always thought they are unfairly kicked about.

Mr. McILRAITH: The school boards are not extravagant in Ontario. They are too hard up.