

cost of constructing the auditorium?" Our estimating department has been busy and using three different approaches towards it came out in the range of estimate of \$87,000 to \$92,000. With those three approaches we would guess that the added cost of an auditorium was in the order of \$90,000. The cost of schools has been a worry to us.

By Mr. Fleming:

Q. The auditorium you are speaking of is a standard auditorium?—A. Yes, there is accommodation for about 900 people. The area is 10,560 feet and I think they are the same in every one of the schools, and we believe that the school would be built without an auditorium for about \$90,000 less than if it had an auditorium.

Q. Is the seating in that auditorium all on one floor or is there a gallery?—A. There is a balcony with room I would imagine for about 150 to about 200 people but the main seating is on the level.

Q. Is there a stage?—A. Yes.

Q. And equipment for the stage?—A. Curtains only.

Q. Is there lighting equipment or anything of that kind?—A. I am informed there are footlights and curtains.

By Mr. Applewhaite:

Q. What floor is the auditorium usually on?—A. Generally all the schools built for the Department of National Defence are one storey buildings. At Grade level or slightly above.

The cost of schools has been a matter of considerable concern to us and it is also shared by school boards all over the country. There have been certain limits established beyond which it was thought it inadvisable to proceed. There are four schools, one at Comox, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Penfold which are not presently proceeding because we were not able to get what would appear to be a reasonable cost. The limitation of room cost—construction only—has been set at \$27,000 for frame and \$30,000 for masonry. Those are the outside limits.

Now, when bids approach those limits they are reviewed. To that there must be added the cost of the land, the services, landscaping and outside playing area, another 10 per cent.

By Mr. Fleming:

Q. Are those figures based on consultations with school boards and boards of education? You are in contact with the problems of administering various other works in the Department of National Defence and I take it that the figure you arrived at is based on wide experience and co-operation?—A. Yes. In the original instance the plans were produced by architects appointed by the Department of National Defence, the plans were produced, and we made some suggestions towards reducing cost with which the Department of National Defence agreed. The plans were brought to a point where there was general agreement as to their satisfaction to the Department of National Defence. We then went to the province of Ontario and spent a couple of days consulting with them. They made some further suggestions and the plans came down pretty well to the Ontario or up to the Ontario level, I am not sure which. The plans were discussed with other provinces, and in British Columbia because of local conditions they asked for some changes which we made, but generally speaking the schools are standard. They are costly as all other schools are at the moment. I do not think that the costs of the National Defence schools are too far removed from the general costs of a school in the country if you remember that a number of the schools, in fact most of them, are built in