

Mr. ELLIOTT: That will be so for a number of years, at any rate.

Mr. KENNEDY: I am very much dissatisfied with that arrangement; I think it is wrong.

Mr. SPENCER: Would the minister inform the committee who owns the building which it is proposed to buy?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The Gatineau Power Company.

Mr. SPENCER: Who are the people behind the Gatineau Power Company?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The International Paper Company.

Mr. SPOTTON: I hesitate to add to the discomfort of the Minister of Public Works, and I am not going to discuss this particular item. However, all these items have been rolling through and I have not noticed any appropriation for a post office in the village of Brussels in the riding of North Huron, which was most urgently needed in the first few weeks of September last. I am not accusing the Minister of Public Works of promising this post office, but I did call upon him and upon the Prime Minister through the press to say to the people in my riding that money would be provided where needed regardless of any political consideration. A number of years ago the government purchased a site in Brussels on which stood a building unfit even for a common livery stable.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Can my hon. friend tell me the year?

Mr. SPOTTON: It was ten or twelve years ago.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The government were not so careful then.

Mr. SPOTTON: Quite so, and we will just drop it at that for the present. At any rate, the government of Canada thought this village needed a post office, and during the first few weeks of September 1927 most hon. gentlemen opposite were fully convinced of that fact, although I am not charging the Minister of Public Works with making any such statement. However, he did not slap any of his conferees on the wrist when they promised it. We already own this site, in a prosperous section of this province and surely we could complete that project before we start to tear down public buildings in Ottawa, and before we erect other buildings all over the country. According to press reports men have been going to such places as the village

of Arthur and the town of Southampton to look for sites for public buildings, but I find that in Brussels, where a post office is expected, where the goods were delivered, and, where a post office is needed, we own a site containing a ramshackle building, and I can find nothing in the estimates to construct this post office. The Minister of Finance says that we have emerged from poverty into prosperity; the treasury of Canada is heaped up, pressed down and flowing over, and I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works, in this great period of prosperity when we are buying buildings costing a million and a quarter to tear down, when we may expect him to take into consideration the completion of this work which was started by the government some years ago. I believe the revenue from this village is good; every person representing the government early in September was convinced that a post office was urgently needed and that if the proper thing were done a post office would be erected. The village of Brussels did the fit and proper thing; I am not twitting the government nor am I holding a post mortem in this chamber, but the fact is that an urgent canvass was made; a minister of the crown visited that village on election morning, got the factions together and a post office was definitely promised. If necessary I can bring affidavits from a few hundred men, regardless of their political affiliations, stating that that is the fact. I do not accuse the Minister of Public Works of making any public promises in my riding; he made no statement in connection with public buildings, but I think before we spend money so recklessly and extravagantly in buying buildings like the Russell house at one million and a quarter dollars only to wreck them, the good citizens of North Huron should be considered and an amount should be placed in the supplementary estimates for a public building in the village of Brussels.

The province of Ontario is being penalized. During the war a previous government voted \$336,000 annually for agricultural education, but, now that the war is over even though the treasury is overflowing that amount is cut off, and we are told that the contribution for technical education is to cease. I would ask the Minister of Public Works to take this matter into his serious consideration.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.