

Mr. PEDLOW: On that item alone a saving of \$62,000 could have been made on one year's purchases.

Mr. CAHILL: How much money was spent last year on these cabinets, and what price was paid?

Mr. J. D. REID: The deputy minister tells me that last year's vote was all spent. Tenders were called for, but I have not got them here. I can give them later on some other Estimates.

Mr. CAHILL: Perhaps we had better let this item stand.

Mr. J. D. REID: I promise the hon. member that I will supply him with the information.

Mr. CAHILL: That will be all right if my hon. friend does not forget.

Mr. J. D. REID: I will not forget.

Mr. FIELDING: The hon. member mentioned the Parliament Buildings among others. I thought it was understood that the fittings and furniture for these buildings would come under the special vote. Is not that so?

Mr. J. D. REID: The deputy minister tells me that some of these fittings are out of the general vote and some are out of the vote for the Parliament Buildings. These filing cases are kept in store and are handed out whenever they may be required in these or any other public buildings in Ottawa.

Mr. FIELDING: The hon. minister will remember that in the discussion which took place several weeks ago respecting the Parliament Buildings, the question was asked whether the furniture and fittings were included in the vote, and it was stated they were included. In fact, the question was raised whether or not the architect was not entitled to a commission on the furniture and fittings. It seems important that they should be charged to one vote or the other.

Mr. J. D. REID: There is quite a difference between the furniture of these buildings and filing cases installed at a later period. The former are really part of the fittings of the buildings, but these cases are only put in when they are actually required, otherwise we would have to pay a commission to the architect.

Mr. CAHILL: One hundred thousand dollars for filing cases seems to be an extraordinary amount of money. What departments did these cases go to last year,

and under whose orders were they purchased?

Mr. J. D. REID: To all the departments.

Mr. CAHILL: What is the basis? How do you get such an item as \$175,000 one year and \$100,000 another year for filing cases?

Mr. J. D. REID: The filing cases purchased under this vote go to all the departments. The cases are bought in large quantities and are kept in store ready to deliver to whatever department requires them. They could not be ordered singly or in small quantities as it would take too long to get them delivered.

Mr. CAHILL: What do they cost?

Mr. J. D. REID: They cost \$45 or \$46 each.

Mr. CAHILL: Do I understand that if any department—say the Post Office Department—makes a requisition on the Public Works Department for 200 or 300 of these filing cases, the Public Works Department ascertains whether there is any necessity for the order? Or does it simply pass the requisition on to the half-defunct Purchasing Board and ask them to get tenders? Where does the check come in?

Mr. J. D. REID: I will tell the hon. gentleman the procedure. When the stock that we have on hand is reduced, tenders are called through the Purchasing Commission and the lowest tender is accepted. The filing cases required are then delivered and put in store under the control of the Public Works Department. If another department requires some of these filing cases, requisition is made on the Public Works Department, and the responsibility for the order rests on the head and deputy of the department making the requisition.

Mr. CAHILL: The matter, then, is dealt with as between the different departments. We ask the minister now for the prices that were paid the past year for these cases and the names of the firms from whom they were bought, but we are unable to get the information.

Mr. J. D. REID: I shall be glad to let the item stand until I can get the information for my hon. friend.

Item stands.

Toronto—Postal Station "A"—to complete, \$425,000.

Mr. J. D. REID: This amount is required to complete the new terminal postal station