

examined when I had the opportunity of paying a visit to that very delightful city last fall. The site is well located for the building.

Mr. BENNETT: Everything except the building.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Except the building. And I think my hon. friend was well within the mark when he said it cost \$200,000; my recollection is that that site cost in 1914 about \$340,000.

Mr. ADSHEAD: \$312,465.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Well, I am very close to it. The city of Calgary is one of the places doing a large business—

Mr. BENNETT: My memory is that a plan of expropriation was filed on the property.

Mr. ELLIOTT: In 1913, I think it was; it was not adjusted until the latter part of the year or the beginning of the next year.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, that is right, just before the war.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I took occasion to inquire as to the revenue from the post office, the customs and government services generally and there is no doubt that it is one of the towns whose revenues are growing rapidly.

Mr. BENNETT: Cities.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I beg the pardon of my hon. friend from the city. The revenues are growing very rapidly; but I took occasion to go to the post office, where the clerks and the postmaster and all the rest of the people performing the government services there are housed, and I inquired from the postmaster himself, and it was quite apparent that they were comfortably and commodiously located. There is no doubt about that. We could not perhaps nearly so well omit Calgary from our consideration at the present time, if they were located as some of the other services have been. If my hon. friend goes around through the offices and asks the postmaster or the assistants, I believe they will all tell him that they are well housed.

Mr. BENNETT: Except that they are not all under the one roof. They are scattered all over the community as they are in Ottawa.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is not very convenient, but they are well accommodated at the present time; and there are so many places where the services are not so well accom-

modated that I do not think my hon. friend will find anything unfair in deferring the building of the post office at Calgary until some of these other places have been dealt with.

Now with regard to the policy of erecting public buildings. Allusion has been made to the confederation block, and while it does not arise directly under this item, I perhaps might refer to it. That is a building which when completed we hope will be a credit to the city and to the Dominion. It is a building that will cost in the vicinity of \$3,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Is that all?

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is the first of a series, the one we have started. Considering the size and character of this building my hon. friends, if they inquire from any architect, will, I think admit that there has been no delay in the preparation of plans and details and the laying out of the building. I may tell my hon. friend that we expect to advertise immediately; if the advertisement is not already in the papers it will be within the next week; the plans and specifications and everything have been prepared.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the first unit?

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is the first unit.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Who is the architect?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The Department of Public Works architect.

Mr. ADSHEAD: For what building, may I ask?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The first of the units for the confederation block. I am very glad to have had the views of my hon. friends in regard to the policy to be adopted in the future. With many of the things that they have said I think it is difficult to disagree. The government has certain advantages, that is, it escapes taxes which the people who rent these buildings have to pay. I was not altogether correct in answering my hon. friend in regard to our being free from taxes down here where we propose to erect this building. We have a number of the buildings now on the site leased. Once we lease a building to someone who is not in the government service and get a rental for it, we become liable for taxes; and it is only that portion of that property that has been liable for taxes in the past. I think the government ought to consider very seriously, in view of the great increase in business since most of the buildings now housing public services were constructed, whether or not at some time in the not