Supply-Public Works-Ontario

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As regards Fort William, the amount of \$50,000 is to provide for the purchase of a site for the erection thereon of a public building for the accommodation of all government services there.

Mr. EULER: Is the reason the same as that given with respect to Belleville—the time is opportune to secure the site?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Is there a land boom at Fort William?

Mr. MANION: No, I wish there were.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I hope not, for the purposes of this vote; I hope there is a land depression there temporarily. What was the next item?

Mr. EULER: The next one is Guelph; That is also for a public building, \$50,000.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This is to provide for the erection of a public building at Guelph to accommodate all the government services, which are at the present time very, much overcrowded. The population is 19,000, the postal revenue \$101,567 and the customs revenue \$760,549.

Mr. EULER: Is this amount merely for a site, or is it for a new building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is to make a beginning towards a new building. Since 1919 demands have been received for a building.

Mr. EULER: You have to have a site before you can erect a building. Is this for the purchase of a site or does it include a portion of the cost of the building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This vote will be for the purchase of a site. I do not know what the site will cost; if there is anything left, it will go towards the construction of a building.

Mr. EULER: I suppose the same reason would apply—the real estate market is down at the present time and it is advisable to buy now. There is an appropriation of \$670,000 for the Toronto customs house; does that complete the building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That was a contract undertaken, as my hon. friend knows, by the previous administration. It is now well under way. This vote is required to complete the existing contract. It will not complete the building, as there will have to be another extension made some time. Mr. EULER: I am quite interested in this because it was initiated while I was in the Department of National Revenue. How much will be required to complete the whole contract, and has anything been added to the original contract?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Nothing has been added to the contract. The contract was for \$2,057,000 and this amount is required to complete it. There will be some small items in addition, but I do not anticipate they will amount to very much.

Mr. EULER: I have no fault to find with that. When may we expect the completion of the building? As I remember, it is very badly needed.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): We hope to have it completed in July of this year.

Mr. EULER: Why should not an amount be included in the estimates to complete the building if it is intended to complete it in July?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As my hon. friend knows, it is contemplated to make an extension to the west some time in the future.

Mr. EULER: Does this vote include equipment and furnishing of the building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. EULER: There is another item in connection with the city of Windsor, a combined public building and Canadian National Railways terminal, \$100,000.

Sir EUGENE FISET: A Canadian National station.

Mr. EULER: Yes. I have some recollection of being in Windsor and noting that the customs building—I think it is a combined post office and customs building—is situated in a very valuable part of the city. I think the suggestion was made at that time that that land should be sold and the moneys applied to the erection of a public building so that practically no additional appropriation would be required. Will the minister advise the committee if he has that plan under consideration, and exactly what the \$100,000 is intended to cover? Perhaps he would give us some little explanation as to what the government expects to do in Windsor.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This is a revote of an item which appeared in the estimates of last year. The Canadian National Railways need a station very badly in the city of Windsor, and it was suggested that accommodation might be provided in the building