

Mr. ELLIOTT: The highest. We asked how much they would give for the buildings which they were to remove. At the time they finished removing the buildings it was impossible, on account of the frost, ice and snow, to level the site. Part of the debris was removed by the contractor and then an arrangement was made by him allowing us \$700, the department to do the levelling themselves as soon as the frost was out of the ground.

Mr. STEVENS: Were these public tenders?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes; they were advertised.

Mr. STEVENS: Who got the contract?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The Betcherman Company.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): When the grant for the Federal District Commission was before the house a few days ago, the Prime Minister presented a plan which I think we all understood covered and included the work that was to be done by the commission, and on that plan I see included this particular area, and no paving is shown on the plan. It is simply a matter of shrubbery, grass and a few paths. Has this plan been departed from, and if so, why has the change been made?

I want to say that from time to time in the past few years I have endeavoured to get an extension of the rural mail delivery or some other comparatively inexpensive service for the people of the constituency I represent, and I have been unable to get these essential services which would be so valuable to the people of my constituency. Yet here we are asked to vote \$3,000,000 one day, and now \$30,000, and further sums in connection with this square. It does seem to me that we are losing our sense of proportion, and that we are not giving our attention to the matters that should really have our serious consideration, and that we are spending these moneys unnecessarily. For these reasons I am strongly in favour of the amendment. If this area were converted into a grass plot, it seems to me that would be very much better than paving. One can scarcely see how so much paving on this small area could possibly be required, unless it is to be converted into a parking area.

Mr. BOYS: Yesterday afternoon the minister informed the committee that he had received about one hundred applications for public buildings throughout various parts of Canada, and he informed me that he would be able to give me a list of the places from which the requests had come, together with the estimated cost. I was wondering if he had that list ready yet.

[Mr. Adshead.]

Mr. ELLIOTT: I certainly have not. Did my hon. friend expect that I would have it this afternoon?

Mr. BOYS: Frankly, I would have thought that a clerk could have got it ready without the slightest difficulty, but perhaps that is because I have not a proper comprehension of the work entailed. I hope the minister will agree to let me have the list before his estimates are concluded.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Has there been any departure from the plan of the federal commission as to this particular area? The minister's statement does not seem to correspond with the plan submitted to the house.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It does not correspond entirely with the plan. The plan my hon. friend refers to has been suggested since the estimates were published, and it is possible that there may be a variation which will render less paving necessary than was contemplated by the architect as absolutely necessary. But the estimate we have before us is the best estimate we can give as to the expenditure, in order to make the area in keeping with the general scheme.

Mr. BOYS: Is it not part of the Federal District Commission's scheme as a whole?

Mr. ELLIOTT: This part is under the Dominion government entirely. The other part of the federal scheme is under the commission.

Mr. BOYS: I was given to understand when this matter was under discussion before, that one of the reasons for this plan was to get a driveway leading from the canal up to the parliament buildings, perhaps not in the exact location shown in the plan, but at all events as part of the scheme. If that is so, I do not see why this work has not been done by the federal commission, and out of the appropriation they are getting, which surely was large enough for the purpose. Are we to understand that the country is not only to provide the sum already voted, but that in addition this square is being taken over by the Public Works department, and that more money will be spent on it too? I can understand that this plan, as the minister says, is not absolutely accurate, but I feel confident that I am right when I say we were told that the intention was that there should be a driveway continued from the canal and approaching this building from the southeast. Am I not right in that?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.