

is to get uniform regulations with the United States. The business on the great lakes is highly competitive, and we have always kept our regulations a little more stringent than those of the United States. We are having conversations at present which we hope will lead to the adoption of standard rules, which will enable us to make sure that freighters, down to a very small size, are required at all times to have communication with the shore.

Mr. MASSEY: Would the minister be good enough to explain the activities to be carried forward under this item, in relation to those to be carried forward under item No. 388?

Mr. HOWE: Item No. 388 covers simply the radio beams for the airways. These are the ship to shore direction finding stations that we have all along our coasts. This service is one of the principal aids to navigation to-day. We have the shore direction finding stations; radio beacons; radiotelegraph stations, which go up into the arctic, along the great lakes and on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It is an extensive service which has been built up over a series of years.

Item agreed to.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Post offices, including salaries and other expenses of headquarters and staff post offices and supplies and equipment for revenue post offices, \$14,624,470.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is this the item that was under discussion last Friday evening?

Hon. W. D. EULER (Acting Postmaster General): It is.

Mr. MacNICOL: I have not very much more to ask the acting Postmaster General, and perhaps he can tell me what I want to know. On Friday evening the acting minister gave some figures in connection with the new post office station "L" on St. Clair avenue west in Toronto, and also some figures in connection with the old station "L." At that time he made the statement that the cost per foot of space in the new post office was seventy-eight cents. As a matter of fact it is 78·8 cents, almost seventy-nine cents. During the same evening I made the statement that the Post Office Department could have had an additional 720 square feet in the old post office. The acting minister gave the figures of the architect, showing that the ground floor space in the former post office was 3,775 feet and the basement space 1,880 feet, or a total of 5,655 feet. The department could have had an additional 720 square feet on the ground floor, with the

same space in the basement, which would have given a total space of 6,460 square feet. I believe the department has on file a letter from the owners of the former post office building indicating that the department could have had the additional space for an additional \$50 a month or \$600 a year, which would have made the rental for the old building \$5,400 plus \$600, or a total of \$6,000, which is equivalent to eighty cents a square foot.

So apparently the department went to all that trouble and inconvenienced thousands of people for about 1·2 cents per foot under what they were paying before. I know the minister is a business man; I have every reason to believe that he has been successful, and what I should like to ask him is this: Would he have liked any private person, let alone a government, to treat him as the Post Office Department treated the owner of that building? I am sure he would not. I think it was a shocking exhibition. I cannot find language to describe the sort of treatment that was accorded the owner of that property.

An hon. MEMBER: Shabby.

Mr. MacNICOL: I shall not use that word. I like to use nice, genteel words, particularly to the acting minister. He is a business man, and business men do not usually treat other business men in a shabby manner, so I shall not use that word in talking to the hon. gentleman. But I repeat that I do not believe there is a business man in this country, unless he did it for some very, very strange reasons which he would not like to disclose, who would treat another business man as this government treated the owner of that property. The building was constructed in accordance with plans which, if not prepared by the department, were o.k.'d by the government when the present administration was in power previously. It will cost the owner a large sum of money to change that splendid building from use as a post office to use as anything else. The main door is in the centre of the building. It will have to be pulled down and the whole front wall pulled out in order to reconstruct the building for other commercial use, and I believe that is being done now.

The acting minister should tell the committee why this outrageous treatment was meted out to a Canadian citizen. The minister would not do it. I would not do it. Why did the department do it? It certainly was not to gain a few additional feet of space because, according to the figures I have quoted,