

ask us next year for an additional sum to complete or they may expect much more severe criticism.

Mr. CAMPBELL. The site was bought at a very reasonable price, \$75 a foot for 60 feet on Dundas street and 130 feet on King street. It is one of the best sites in the whole town of Toronto Junction. Toronto Junction, as everybody knows is growing rapidly. It has a population of nearly 7,000. The post office receipts are nearly \$5,000 a year, and the customs about \$60,000 a year. This all appears under the head of Toronto, as Toronto Junction is an outport of that city. The present post office is very small and the amount they are paying for rent for the present post office and also for the customs will pay a reasonable sum on the cost of the building.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the government paying for rent?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I think it is \$150 a year for the post office.

Mr. SPROULE. How much for the customs?

Mr. CAMPBELL. For two rooms they are paying \$20 a month. Four or five years ago rents were very low and they made an exceptionally good bargain renting the two rooms for \$12 a month. But when the lease was to be renewed, rents had gone up and they had to pay \$20 a month. I am sure that when the time expires again the rent will be still further advanced.

Mr. OSLER. These rents are a little more than three quarters of one per cent on the amount to be expended.

Mr. INGRAM. Last night I asked for a list of the papers in which tenders for the Clinton post office were advertised for.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Orders have been given to have a list prepared, and I shall be glad to send it to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram).

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I was not in my place when the minister gave details with regard to the Cobourg drill shed. Though a little out of order I ask leave to go back to that point. I wish to know if the Minister of Public Works has outlined any policy in relation to these drill sheds erected throughout the country. I think he should prepare some plan by which drill sheds could be erected at much reduced cost. In that way all the regiments could be provided for, but, at the present rate of going, and each drill shed costing a great deal of money, it will be years before the country will be anything like fully served with these sheds.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. If my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes, Victoria) had been present he would have heard me express my views on that subject. Of course, the

Mr. SPROULE.

policy with regard to these matters rests largely with the Militia Department. I expressed my personal view that every battalion should be provided with a good building for headquarters, and, that to that purpose we should try to reduce the cost of the buildings to some extent. I am not complaining about the cost that has already been incurred in some of the large cities. But I think we should provide in the counties good substantial buildings at the least possible cost as headquarters for these battalions.

Mr. THOMSON (North Grey). The hon. member for West York (Mr. Campbell) gives as a reason for the construction of a public building at a cost of \$35,000 for postal purposes in Toronto Junction, that the post office receipts last year were \$5,000. I may say that, in Owen Sound the receipts of the post office are about \$15,000, while the customs collect \$40,000. Yet we have no public building. The rents paid by the government for buildings used in connection with the customs, post office and inland revenue, amount to \$965 a year, which, capitalized at 3 per cent would give about \$30,000. Reference was made the other evening to the promise made to the electors in the recent by-election that there would be a public building put up in Owen Sound. I merely submit these figures to the Minister of Public Works, and hope that it will enable him to see his way clear to put a sum in the supplementary estimates, so that we may have a building there adequate to the business of the town and of a character creditable to the government.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have to be consistent. As I have spoken of the necessity of a public building in Owen Sound, I can express my sympathy with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Thomson) in agitating for this expenditure. But, of course he would not expect me to make a promise, because that would be unconstitutional. Though I am not very anxious to be in the government, I would rather leave of my own accord than be kicked out. If I were to announce anything not in accordance with the constitution the hon. gentleman knows what would happen. I can assure the hon. gentleman that the case will have every consideration when it comes up.

Mr. SPROULE. All over the country there seems to be drill sheds which are going out of repair. The government are doing nothing to preserve them. The hon. Minister of Public Works speaks of intending to provide headquarters for the different regiments, but how about retaining the buildings already in existence?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not say we were going to provide headquarters; but I stated my personal opinion in favour of that policy. In many cases, the rural battalions have quarters. The