

Mr. ELLIOTT: The matter is by no means new. Within the last week I have taken it up with some of the engineers. When the building was erected they thought they had the most modern system of ventilation obtainable, and perhaps they have. But I am told that in a building occupied, as this chamber is, during a great part of the day, it is almost impossible to devise a system which will properly ventilate the place and at the same time avoid draughts. On this side of the chamber at certain times in the day we can feel a draught at our backs when the ventilators are open. I have recently asked the engineers to investigate the matter to see whether something cannot be done.

Mr. GEARY: I suppose you would like to turn the draught over here.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That might have some advantages. Really, after all is said and done the system is perhaps about as good as we can get it.

Mr. STEVENS: It is not good enough.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I am bound to say it is not absolutely satisfactory.

Mr. COOTE: I can assure the minister there is something wrong with the system in the building as a whole. I know that in some of the lavatories upstairs more than half the time the air, instead of being drawn from the lavatory through the ventilator, comes through the ventilator into the lavatory. There is obviously something wrong with a system when it works backwards in that way. The sergeant-at-arms is acquainted with the situation and on many occasions he has sent someone to correct it. I do not know how it is done. It will work all right for a day or a day and a half, but the next time you go back you find the current of air reversed in the manner I have indicated.

Mr. STIRLING: It would not be so unbearable of an evening here if the air were not heated so much. Is the minister aware that this evening, for the third time this week, the thermometer has been $74\frac{1}{2}$? The difference between 64 and 74 seems to make all the difference between reasonable comfort and absolute misery.

Mr. MALONEY: In addition to the vitiated state of the atmosphere there is another—a worse—feature. I refer to the acoustic properties of the chamber. Here is a room which has cost the country many

thousands of dollars and I doubt whether there is in Canada another room of its size where a voice carries a shorter distance than it does in this chamber.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Louder.

Mr. MALONEY: The day has come when our voice should be heard. The day has come also when we must provide accommodation for a library of parliament. At the present time we have a building allocated for this purpose, a building which has been filling rapidly and is now taxed almost to capacity. I offer this suggestion to the minister for his consideration: convert this chamber into a real library and convert the present library into a chamber, after the style of the old amphitheatre, where the boys will have to stand up on a pedestal before the crowd and say what they know. That would give us a chance to make our voices heard.

Mr. KENNEDY: I do not want to see the Bureau of Statistics removed from a position a few hundred yards distant to a place a few miles away from the House of Commons without making a protest. I know of no department that means more to us than the Bureau of Statistics. We are always dealing with figures and facts from which we make our own deductions and it is quite important that we should be able to keep in touch with the bureau. It is true that we shall be able to do so by telephone or by letter, but some of us find it much more convenient to discuss matters personally with someone who is conversant with the facts, and to get our information at firsthand in that way. If the bureau is moved out two miles, which I think is about the distance, it will be almost impossible for members to take the time to go there to discuss matters with the officials who have the desired facts. I do not see why it would not be possible to rush the construction of this departmental building in order to have the bureau located within a reasonable distance of the House of Commons.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The present building must be moved away before the departmental building can be erected, because the latter will be constructed partly on the present site of the statistical branch.

Mr. KENNEDY: I understand that, but I also understood the minister to say that they were fixing up this building in New Edinburgh to provide for the accommodation of the bureau for a number of years, so to all intents and purposes this will be its permanent location.