

Mr. FISHER. Whenever we can get tenders from parties outside of these two firms we shall be glad to get them. We have asked for tenders over and over again and none but these two firms have put in tenders.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Do you publish an advertisement in the papers?

Mr. FISHER. No, they come and look at the specifications. Or, by writing, they can get a copy of the plans, and then they can tender.

Owen Sound public building, \$30,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What progress is being made with this building?

Mr. FISHER. A site has been bought on the corner of Baker and Sproat streets. Tenders are now being called for. The site cost \$10,950, and it was bought from the Kilburn Real Estate Company, Limited.

Mr. SPROULE. Is the building to accommodate, post office, customs and inland revenue?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Has the plan for the building been made?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the size?

Mr. FISHER. I have not the details of the plan here. I suppose the building will nearly cover the lot.

Mr. SPROULE. The contract will be let by tender?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, and to the lowest bidder.

Mr. SPROULE. How was the lot purchased? Was it purchased direct by the department?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, from the Kilburn Real Estate Company, Limited.

Peterborough armoury, \$30,000.

Mr. MONK. Is this to complete the building?

Mr. FISHER. The contract is let. I believe it is for \$126,000.

Mr. SPROULE. How much is the building to cost when completed?

Mr. FISHER. About \$150,000 or \$160,000.

Mr. SPROULE. To whom was the contract let.

Mr. FISHER. To Mr. Proctor, of Sarnia.

Mr. SPROULE. Is that the result of tenders?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Did the lowest tenderer get the contract?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. From whom was the site purchased, and what size is it?

Mr. FISHER. It was purchased from the corporation of the town of Peterborough and the price was \$10,000. The lot has a frontage of 450 feet on Murray street and 185 feet on St. George street.

Mr. WILLIAM WRIGHT. Is it the ordinary custom for the department to decide to put up a building, spend money on the site and let a contract, and then come to parliament for the money?

Mr. FISHER. There was a vote for this last year, and I think one the year before. When the first vote is made by parliament, that is looked upon as a decision by parliament in favour of the construction of the building, and then the work is gone on with.

St. Catharines public building—improvements, &c., \$4,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What improvements is the department making there?

Mr. FISHER. Renewing the plumbing, carpenter work, painting, repairing the roof and other items.

Mr. SPROULE. Is this done by tender, or by day work?

Mr. FISHER. It is done by day work on the estimate of the architect.

St. Mary's public building, \$20,000.

Mr. FISHER. That is under contract for \$22,506.

Mr. ALCORN. This contains an item of \$355 for advertising?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, it is the same kind of thing as in the other instance.

Mr. ALCORN. I see that the amount spent for advertising last year was about \$182,000.

Mr. FISHER. I suppose that was for the advertising of all the departments all over the country.

Mr. ALCORN. What other advertising is there besides Public Works?

Mr. FISHER. There is a great deal of advertising, for instance, by the Department of the Interior. Occasionally the Department of Agriculture has to advertise—we have to send out notices concerning quarantine and diseases of animals. The Justice Department is called upon to advertise in certain matters. The Railways and Canals Department advertise their time tables. You hardly can take up a newspaper but you find there a government advertisement of some kind.

Mr. ALCORN. Does this \$182,000 include everything in the way of advertising?