

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Public buildings—Quebec—Grosse Isle quarantine station—improvements and repairs to buildings, \$12,000.

Mr. MONK. How is this sum going to be applied?

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Acting Minister of Public Works). There are a lot of small repairs of various kinds to the church, sheds, stables, &c. There are no large amounts.

Mr. MONK. What repairs to the church?

Mr. FISHER. To recover part of the roof which leaks.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. How do we come to repair churches?

Mr. FISHER. This station is an island without any inhabitants except the people in the government employ and we provide for their spiritual welfare.

Immigration buildings generally, province of Quebec, \$5,000.

Mr. DANIEL. In what places are there immigrant buildings?

Mr. FISHER. In Nominigüe, Roberval and Peribonka. These are where the repatriation work is being carried on. The provision for this year was \$5,000. Of that \$1,600 has not been spent so that there will be a revote of \$1,600 out of the \$5,000. The Nominigüe immigrant building was placed under contract in 1906. The amount of the contract is \$3,400; fittings and furniture will cost \$1,600, and the site will cost \$1,500; making a total of \$5,500. Tenders were called for and the lowest tender was accepted.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I notice by the Auditor General's Report at page V—53, that there was purchased for the Montreal immigration offices a gas stove at a cost of \$86, 25 cots at \$10 each, a roll-top desk for \$32, 2 dressers and stands for \$42 and \$16, a 9 foot by 4 foot table for \$32, and other things in the same proportion. These are pretty high prices.

Mr. FISHER. I suppose these things were necessary furniture for the buildings. Unless I am mistaken the cots are iron, with woven wire fittings under the mattresses. I should think that was not an out of the way price for them. Twenty-three dollars does not appear to be out of the way for a refrigerator. The cost of a gas stove depends altogether upon the capacity of the stove.

Mr. MONK. I would like to get some information in regard to these immigrant buildings. What we require most in the northern part of the province of Quebec for im-

migration as well as all other purposes is railway communication. Who is at present in charge of the building at Nominigüe?

Mr. BOURASSA. That is in my constituency, and if the minister will permit me I can satisfy my hon. friend in a few words. This building was asked for by the Immigration Society of Montreal for a number of years. Nominigüe is the terminal point of the Canadian Pacific Railway branch going from Montreal to the north. The object of this is to afford to settlers who are being repatriated or to ordinary provincial settlers who want to reach further points to the north, varying from ten to sixty miles distant, a house where they can lodge with their families and their effects, without being subjected to the high prices exacted by hotel-keepers. The house is built right at the station; they get there without paying any transportation and can remain there and thus avoid the higher rates charged by hotel-keepers until they are prepared to go to the Lièvre valley.

Mr. MONK. The purpose is a very good one. Is the house finished?

Mr. FISHER. It will be for this season.

Mr. BOURASSA. Now they can go up the railway instead of having to go round by the Nominigüe district.

Lachine public building, \$10,000.

Mr. MONK. Is that to be erected this year?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, the plans are prepared and tenders will be asked at once.

Levis public building, \$8,000.

Mr. FISHER. This is to finish. The total cost will be \$42,000. The expenditure to November 30 last, was \$29,000. It is intended for a post office, custom house and usual government offices.

Montreal barracks for permanent corps, \$20,000.

Mr. MONK. Where is that to be situated?

Mr. FISHER. The site has not yet been purchased.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. What will be the total cost?

Mr. FISHER. Probably three quarters of a million. I have not yet seen the plan, but these barracks will be on the same scale as those in Toronto, and the estimate I have given is what the latter is expected to cost.

Mr. MONK. We are entitled to a more detailed statement before voting this amount. Is the minister in a position to tell the committee how far negotiations have proceeded for the purchase of the site or what is the obstacle in the way?