

Durham—public buildings, \$20,000.

Mr. EDWARDS (Waterloo): What is the population of Durham, and what revenue is derived from this office?

Mr. ROBB: The population numbers 1,640, but there is quite a thriving district surrounding it. The postal revenue is \$6,308.22

Mr. EDWARDS (Waterloo): My reason for asking the question is that in the town of Hespeler, Waterloo county, the population is approximately 3,000 and the post office is in a rented building. The government has owned a site for some ten years and an amount for constructing a public building has been placed in the estimates for three or four years in succession and yet nothing has been done. I should like to know what pull Durham has which enables it to get a vote of \$20,000 for a public building when we cannot get anything for the town of Hespeler.

Mr. ROBB: What is the postal revenue in the town of Hespeler?

Mr. EDWARDS (Waterloo): It is a manufacturing town with a population of 3,000.

Mr. ROBB: I will have the matter looked into.

Item agreed to.

London—tractor for postal purposes, \$4,500.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): What kind of a tractor is that?

Mr. ROBB: An electric tractor for carrying the mail around.

Item agreed to.

Ottawa—public buildings—paving roadways, \$25,500.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): On what basis are these appropriations made for the construction of sidewalks?

Mr. DUNNING: They are for sidewalks around the public buildings.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Simply on the grounds of the public buildings?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): That is to say the government owns the property.

Mr. ROBB: We have to make provision for local improvements on streets on which the government own property.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Only there?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Robb.]

Rockland—public building, \$25,000.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): What kind of building is that?

Mr. ROBB: A post office and customs building.

Mr. ARTHURS: What is the population?

Mr. ROBB: The revenue is \$2,745.84. Rockland is a town on the Ottawa river, twenty-two miles east of Ottawa, connecting with the Canadian National railways. The population is 3,354 and there are some very large mills down there.

Mr. GARDINER: The minister said the postal revenue was a little over \$2,000?

Mr. DUNNING: The amount he gave was \$2,745.84.

Mr. GARDINER: What is the revenue from other departments there?

Mr. ROBB: I have not got that here.

Mr. GARDINER: Was the expenditure of this amount justified in a small place of that description with such a small revenue? It seems to me the expenditure for public buildings has no relation to the income. I think the government should take that point into consideration when advancing sums of money for public buildings. This country cannot afford to spend extraordinary sums of money in places where the income is very small. On the other hand, there are places where the income is substantial, and the building appropriation is not sufficient. It does not seem to me that the matter has been given the full consideration which should be given to it, and I believe the time has arrived when a new policy should be evolved in dealing with public buildings of this description.

Mr. ARTHURS: I have in my district a town without public buildings, and even a constituency without a public building. We have in the town I represent an annual average income of about half a million of customs for many years, a postal revenue of many thousands, and a population much greater than any of those cited here to-night, and yet no consideration is given to such cases. I think some policy should be laid down whereby the revenue and the needs of the various peoples should be considered, rather than political exigencies.

Item agreed to.

Sarnia—purchase of building for armoury purposes, \$24,000.

Mr. HANSON: Is this a new expenditure? Is the government embarking on a new policy of building armouries?