

*City of Ottawa Agreement*

to pay for this? The agreement is improvident. They do not give \$100,000 of value. Why do they not clean the streets? Look at the number of people injured; look at the state of the streets right in front of the door of this building on Wellington street, such that no one can walk on the pavement without danger. We have to have here in Ottawa three duplicate street cleaning services: first, the Department of Public Works; second, the city; third, the commission, and fourth, Mr. Speaker, if necessary, could go out himself with a few of us and clean the streets and walks in front of this building.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. CHURCH: I shall conclude in just three or four minutes. I am not criticizing the city of Ottawa at all; I want it to have equality of treatment with the rest of Canada. This is a very fine city, and I worked with the municipal officers for many years. What I object to is the federal and provincial governments refusing to contribute to taxation for municipal purposes. For example, for many years the city of Toronto had to build curbs, roads and sidewalks all along federal and provincial property, and this government did not contribute a cent towards the cost. I do not blame the city of Ottawa for getting an agreement under which they will obtain \$100,000. I would not care, if services were given, if they got half a million, and if the other Canadian cities were treated in the same way. They have a very fine school system here; they have fine hospitals and an excellent health service, but they get nothing from the federal authorities. The service rendered is not limited to fire protection and water works. These things concern the health of the people, but the city does not get a cent from the federal government.

They have cured all that in England. You have to go to the British cities to get good government. Look what Joseph Chamberlain did for the city of Birmingham. He spent a fortune there. The government of Canada is not doing anything for the people who live in the larger municipalities, or, for that matter, for those who live in rural places. I used to know the late Mayor Fisher of Ottawa. He went to Jarvis street collegiate. He prepared an estimate amounting to \$886,455, as what the city of Ottawa should have received from the federal government. He included \$77,000 for water rates; \$2,000 for sprinkling the

streets, \$57,000 for income tax, because some high government officials were exempt from municipal taxation; \$482,000 for property tax; \$226,000 for business tax, and \$3,000 for property leased to the dominion government. In some ways, of course, that calculation would not be fair, but at least they are entitled to what they spend.

I do not wish to reflect on any of the city officials here. I have known some of them for many years. This city has very fine officials, who work for small pay. There is efficiency here. It is true that there is not sufficient hotel accommodation, but that will come. I would not object to a proper federal district commission for this city, but I hope the day is coming when we shall not tear down any more public buildings. Let us wait until the depression is over. I believe we are spending too much money, when one considers the eight per cent sales tax and the condition of the farmers and those on relief.

I certainly believe there should be a better break all over Canada for the municipalities, by both the federal and the provincial governments. Why should the municipalities have real estate loaded up the way it is? If a man owns property, he has to pay fifty per cent of the cost of his own roadway, his sidewalk and his local improvements. He has also to pay for federal municipal works, and he has to help provide all these social services without which the people cannot get along. Why should he have to add to his local taxes to pay for local improvements, roads, sewers, sidewalks, waterworks, and all that sort of thing right in front of federal property? The old Grand Trunk paid taxes. In one municipality which I could mention that company was a large taxpayer, but to-day in Toronto the Royal York hotel does not pay any municipal taxes. This is unfair and unjust, and with all these exemptions how is a municipality to live? The municipalities are starving to-day, so much so that they have not a dollar with which properly to repair public buildings, build new schools, construct proper hospital accommodation, help the medical profession in the fine work they are doing, and maintain clinics. They have not a dollar for these services, which are largely maintained by the municipalities. In a rich country like Canada I think the dominion government should come to the help of the overburdened municipalities and pay in all cities for the services rendered. At the present time all these services are carried on through taxes imposed on property owned by you gentlemen and all the rest of us who have invested in real estate. This situation has been cured in England, in the United States, in Aus-

[Mr. Church.]