

but I see the Minister of Agriculture, who is the father of the cold storage system, and if the Minister of Public Works does not act, the Minister of Agriculture might take steps to obtain some better arrangement than that which now exists for cooling the air in this chamber. The Prime Minister has just referred to the fact that during the present session four members have been called away; the only wonder is that the number is not greater. In this chamber last night there were 80 degrees of heat, and when you came in from the outside, where you were breathing fresh air, the foul air here struck you at the door. It is the duty of the government to at once correct this. Surely some arrangement can be devised whereby this chamber can be made healthy; the windows ought to be removed on such a day as this and the fresh air allowed to come in. We should have fresh air introduced through pipes filled with ice, so that it may be cooled. Just now the temperature here is 75, while outside it is 70. Under this very room there are five or six furnaces kept going day and night for the purpose of supplying hot water; and if it is necessary to have hot water in the building, some arrangement should be made for heating it outside and forcing it through in pipes. We have put up with this state of things long enough. The session of parliament is never going to be got through in cool weather. We commenced on the 11th day of January and here we are in July. I never expect to see a session over again before six or seven months, and it is time the government did something to preserve the health of the members who are obliged to attend their public duties here.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER. I do not think any words can be too strong to impress this matter upon the minds of those who have it in charge. Ever since I have been in the House this has been a constant complaint, and nothing efficient has ever been done to provide a remedy. It is not too much to say that a man either of very rugged health or of delicate physique takes his life in his hands when he attends the sessions of parliament in this chamber regularly afternoon and night. A man midway between the very rugged and those of a very slender type seem to get through much better than the others, but anyhow the place is very unhealthy. That floral tribute on that vacant desk to-day tells us of the passing away of one of our members. I do not know that directly the foul air in this chamber had anything to do with it, but I do know that the members of this House feel very strongly—I feel so myself very strongly—that when one attends this chamber constantly he takes great risks on living out the term of his natural life. There ought to be something done right away to cool the air in this chamber; and our caretakers, aided by scientific advice, should immediately take up the matter. If neces-

Mr. TAYLOR.

sary they should knock out the sides of the thing one way or the other; better knock out the side of the House and allow fresh air to come in than make us live in this foul atmosphere. The fact that the temperature is higher in this chamber than it is outside is patent to everybody; you cannot come in from the fresh air and enter that corridor without distinguishing the deadly atmosphere. I feel it every time I come in. Something ought to be done; and if nothing can be done to this chamber, let us take some of the money we are lavishing in other ways—for instance, on the mint and the museum—and let us make a chamber which will be at least healthy for the people's representatives, whose lives are at stake.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has rightly said that this is not a new complaint; he and I have heard it ever since we have been in this House. Something certainly ought to be done at the earliest possible date to remove the grievance to which he has alluded. I shall make it my special duty to call the attention of the Minister of Public Works to this state of affairs, so that he may try any means possible to have it remedied.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON. I know, as a matter of fact, that two or three years ago a gentleman named Manny, who is an inventor, and who has successfully installed fresh air plants, offered the government to ventilate this chamber in a proper way and to provide any temperature that might be required. That offer was refused on the opinion of the engineers and architects of the government, who held that if they had not been able to do it, Mr. Manny could not succeed. This offer is still before the government, and I think we should ascertain whether or not that gentleman is prepared to carry it out. He has said that he could keep the temperature of this chamber at 70 or 72, or at any other degree that is required.

Mr. C. PICHE. I wish to state that the gentleman mentioned by the hon. member for Beauharnois has offered to give any amount of security that he will carry out his contract to ventilate this chamber in a proper way. So there need be no fear that he will not do the work properly.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE. I think I suggested before, and I mention it again, that the ventilation of this chamber could be very much improved by opening up six of the squares in the ceiling, and at the same time opening some of the windows lower down. During several months each year for two or three years I occupied a square chamber something like this with about 500 other people, yet we have never experienced any of the deleterious effects from impure air which we experience in this chamber. The high openings above would draw off the heated