

I drew the minister's attention to the condition of the building occupied by the Bureau of Statistics. I was there to-day, and I found it in a most deplorable condition. If a fire occurred many priceless documents would be destroyed. I hope he will do something to protect those documents instead of leaving them in this ramshackle place, which is nothing better than a fire trap and a discredit to Ottawa or any other place.

Mr. ELLIOTT: What my hon. friend says is true; the predicament we should be in if a fire unfortunately occurred in the building now housing the statistical branch has been a matter of serious concern for some time. Steps are being rapidly taken with a view to having at an early date the branch located in a building which will provide suitable accommodation and will be at the same time absolutely fireproof.

Mr. ADSHEAD: How long will that be?

Mr. ELLIOTT: We are hoping that it will be within sixty days.

Mr. MALONEY: Where is the new location?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I have no hesitation in stating where it will be, if an appropriation which I am going to ask the house to pass in the supplementary estimates is made for the purchase of a property known as the New Edinburgh mills. One of the buildings on that property will house the statistical branch.

Mr. MALONEY: I understand it is a saw mill.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is in the city just on the other side of Earnscliffe, if my hon. friend knows where that is.

Mr. STEVENS: At the mouth of the Rideau river.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Immediately east of Dalhousie street.

Mr. COOTE: Would it not be nearly two miles from the parliament buildings?

Mr. ELLIOTT: No.

Mr. COOTE: At any rate it is a long way for members to go for information.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Is it not a fact that the government own property in the neighbourhood of the building in which the statistical branch is now located?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

[Mr. Adshead.]

Mr. CHAPLIN: Why on earth move them a mile and a half away, or even half a mile? It will be inconvenient for those who have to use the branch.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The building on the other property we can use right away.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Is it proposed to use that building temporarily or permanently?

Mr. ELLIOTT: We shall fix it up with a view to utilizing it probably for many years.

Mr. STEVENS: It will cost a lot of money to repair it and put it into proper shape.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It will cost about one year's rental; that is the estimate.

Mr. GARDINER: Have you not better accommodation in the Daly building if you cleaned up the mess that is there? Could you not put the bureau there?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is filled to overflowing now.

Mr. MALONEY: Do you propose to house these people in that old saw mill?

Mr. STEVENS: That is it—the New Edinburgh saw mill.

Mr. CHAPLIN: They call it new, but it is a little old.

Mr. COOTE: Is it proposed to erect a departmental building in Ottawa this year?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. COOTE: Does that come under some other item?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes, on page 30.

Mr. COOTE: Is it to be erected where the cornerstone stands at the present time.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. COOTE: Can the minister do something to improve the ventilation in this chamber? The air in the chamber is very bad to-night, and it is the same practically every night. Coming in from the fresh air which one gets at the front door one at once realizes how far this chamber is from perfection. The atmosphere is certainly not what it should be, and the ventilation could unquestionably be improved. Will the minister have his engineers look into the matter, giving them definite instructions to improve the ventilation?