

ing and thus save money because the interest at three and a half per cent is less than the rental we were paying.

North Bay public building, \$25,000.

Mr. WILLIAM WRIGHT. How much land was purchased for that site, and what was the total cost?

Mr. FISHER. The site is 66 by 132, and the building will be 55 by 90 feet. It will cost \$8,100. We hope it will be finished by the 1st of January next.

Mr. ALCORN. I find an item for advertising, \$307. Does the government pay the advertising rates fixed by the papers themselves, or has the government any scale of their own?

Mr. FISHER. The rates are fixed by the King's Printer for all papers. They go through his hands and payments are made by him.

Mr. SPROULE. The minister said some time ago that the Department of Public Works sends out a copy of the advertisement to each paper.

Mr. FISHER. The King's Printer does that, and only those are paid. I have noticed, not unfrequently, advertisements of this kind in other papers which were not authorized to print them, to which the advertisements were not sent. But only those are paid which the King's Printer has ordered. As I explained a few minutes ago, advertisements are inserted in the large papers of widest circulation. Then we take a radius from the locality itself, and advertise in the papers within that district.

Mr. SPROULE. How much is this building to cost altogether?

Mr. FISHER. About \$59,000. The contract was let for \$33,879. Then there is the site, heating, lighting, furniture, fixtures, sidewalks and fences.

Mr. DANIEL. I notice in the Auditor General's Report, in connection with this (North Bay building, there is an item of \$100 for salaries at Ottawa. In looking up to see what that refers to, I find it refers to services of Mr. Beaton, architect. Is Mr. Beaton an employee of the government, living in Ottawa?

Mr. FISHER. I understand that this gentleman was taken out of the Public Works Department and put on this special work. He is paid that amount until he was appointed by order in council. This \$100 is to pay his salary before he went on by order in council.

Ottawa departmental buildings—fittings, &c., \$40,000.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. With reference to this item, I notice a purchase of metallic
Sir FREDERICK BORDEN.

fittings from the Eclipse Manufacturing Company. I notice that this company are furnishing a large number of book racks, steel drawers and roller shelves. Is this the only company in Canada that is capable of furnishing these articles?

Mr. FISHER. That and the Toronto Specialty Company are the only two companies who make these steel shelves. There was another company at Gananoque, but that has gone out of business.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I notice there are very extensive purchases of these goods. Are they supplied by tender?

Mr. FISHER. Tenders have been asked for several times, and these two companies are the only ones who tender. It is a question in my mind whether that amounts to anything. Where the tenders are not asked for, prices are fixed according to those which have been paid under tenders.

Mr. WILLIAM WRIGHT. When the minister says that tenders were called for, does he mean that several firms were invited to send in their estimates?

Mr. FISHER. No, we have advertised several times, with the result that nobody else has tendered except these two companies. They are the only two companies equipped with the machinery necessary to make these steel shelves. The article is patented. A little while ago we advertised for tenders for fittings in the post office buildings here, and nobody else tendered except these two companies.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. How are these goods purchased—by the foot, by the pound or by the yard, or how?

Mr. FISHER. Plans and specifications are prepared by the officers of the department, and these people have to work to that plan and specification.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Then their estimate is made on that plan?

Mr. FISHER. Plans are prepared for the room. I happen to have observed one case, and know how this work is done. The plans for the room are prepared and estimates made of the weight of shelving required. This is done by an officer of the Department of Public Works. The plans being all drawn to scale. When the weight of metal required is known, tenders are called for.

Mr. MONK. What is this \$40,000 to be spent for?

Mr. FISHER. Almost altogether for the steel shelving and filing cases. There are a lot of them in this building.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Is it intended to call for tenders publicly?