

building costing a certain amount, say a million and a half. What the government should insist upon is that the company shall substantially expend that amount; therefore, there should be a limit below which they shall not fall, say a million, or a million and a quarter, but at all events, the government should insist that substantially they shall fulfil the representations they make. When the minister talks about a difference of a dollar, or two dollars, or five dollars, or a thousand dollars, that does not meet the point at all. I would expect that before the government passed an order in council they would ascertain from the company exactly what the company proposes to do. They should say: We want to know something of the character of the building you are going to put up.

Mr. PUGSLEY. And nothing can show more clearly than the plans which are submitted.

Mr. LENNOX. We want to know something about the cost of the building. What the minister has done is this: He has passed this order in council without knowing anything at all, without having the first title of information as regards the cost. He lets these negotiations all go on with the city; he says the city is vitally interested, but it is not nearly so much interested as the people of Canada, as we who represent the people of Canada. I can think of no greater outrage perpetrated upon a people than this very transaction—going right into the centre of the property of the people, the beauty spot of the city of Ottawa, the place of which we are so proud, Major's Hill park, to plant in the centre of that park a commercial edifice, a money-making institution—that is surely an absolute outrage upon the rights of the people. Therefore, the least we should insist upon—because the government seem to be determined to carry the thing through—is that they should proceed upon some business basis. Now, I asked the minister if there were outlets from this hotel direct to the park. The minister does not know. So little attention has been paid to this matter, so little interest has the minister taken in the preservation of the public rights, that he does not know to-day whether there are one or a dozen outlets from that hotel to the public park. He does not know whether that is to be the backyard of a hotel where baby carriages shall be trundled at will—

Mr. PUGSLEY. They do not trundle baby carriages in backyards, usually.

Mr. LENNOX. It will virtually become the backyard, because it is at the back of the hotel. My hon. friend may know a good deal more about baby carriages than I do, but what I say will prove substantially to be the case, that this will be the sport-

ing ground for that hotel, and that the hotel might just as well own the whole park. That is the position of the case, and for a paltry \$100,000 we are invading this park belonging to the people. There could be no greater outrage perpetrated upon the people of Canada—unless it were the erection of the Ross rifle factory upon the Plains of Abraham at Quebec, and I doubt even whether that is a greater outrage. Now, I want to ask the minister a few questions. We are devoting this \$100,000 to this Improvement Commission in Ottawa. I understand from looking at the statute that ordinarily it would go to consolidated fund. Why is it that the minister proposes to give this over to the Ottawa Improvement Commission?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I can very well understand the reasons which influenced the government at the time. These negotiations were entered upon before I became minister, and therefore I am not able to give in detail the actual reasons which influenced the government. But I would assume that these are the reasons, and I have understood that the reasons which I am about to give are those which did influence the government. Hon. gentlemen are aware that Major's Hill Park is a large park, it extends down to Nepean Point. There is a considerable part of that which is unimproved. The situation is very beautiful and with the expenditure of a reasonable amount of money it could be made an ideal park. The building of a first-class hotel there, magnificent in proportion and beautiful in design, if the improvements are continued to Nepean Point, so far from being any detriment will be a distinct improvement to the city. I assume it is intended, and this has been my information, that either the whole or a large part of this money shall be expended by the Ottawa Improvement Commission in the beautifying and improving of the remainder of Major's Hill Park right down to Nepean Point.

Mr. FOSTER. Where do you find that authorization?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is authorized by the order in council.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think so.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It does not say so in express words, but it says the money shall be paid to the Ottawa Improvement Commission to be used by them under the direction of the Governor in Council.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not say for what.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is true, but that is one reason why the money is to be given to the Ottawa Improvement Commission. The Prime Minister will be able to state