

Mr. HANBURY: At a place altogether unsuited.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: At a place totally unsuited for a hotel, and I would not have spent five cents on a hotel in that location because it would have been money thrown away.

Mr. HEAPS: How far is the present C.N.R. station in Vancouver from the site of the building?

Mr. HANBURY: Approximately two miles.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Yes, I should say that was right. The site that has been selected, and has been bought for the Vancouver hotel, is just two blocks from the present Vancouver hotel of the Canadian Pacific. Now, the purchase price was \$793,000. That represents—

Mr. HANSON: The site.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: The site. It represents 73,000 square feet and the price was \$10.86 per square foot.

Mr. HANBURY: In the heart of the city of Vancouver.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Of course, right in the heart of the city, as I said a moment ago, and only two blocks from the present site of the Vancouver hotel of the Canadian Pacific, which is, I should think, one of the most expensive sites than can be found in Vancouver that is in the very heart of the city.

Mr. HANBURY: A better site than the Canadian Pacific hotel.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Well, it is fully—it is certainly as good, I should think. One would be within the bounds of truth to say it is as good.

Mr. HANBURY: From the standpoint of taxation, it is a better site.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: You should know better about that than I.

The CHAIRMAN: Why?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: He lives there.

Mr. HANBURY: Is it not a fact that had there been no contract with the city of Vancouver of any kind whatever—

SIR HENRY THORNTON: What is that?

Mr. HANBURY: Had there not been a contract with the city of Vancouver dealing with the hotel, it still would have been in the interests of the railway company to construct a hotel in Vancouver.

Mr. HANSON: It is a question of opinion.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Mr. Hanson says it is a question of opinion; probably it would have been. On the other hand, for instance, we have been urged to build a hotel in the city of Quebec in competition with the Chateau Frontenac; it has been suggested we ought to build a hotel in Victoria in competition with the Empress Hotel, and I have heard of suggestions also—

Mr. HANSON: And even put one in the city of Fredericton?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I have heard that suggestion also. Now perhaps from one point of view hotels at all those places might be regarded as in the interests of the company. But the real reason, the principal reason for the construction of this hotel at Vancouver was to escape from the exceedingly onerous contract, although the fact that it also gave us an important traffic implement was by no means disregarded.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Does it not come down to this, you were obliged to build a hotel and decided in your wisdom that this was the type of hotel you ought to build, and that is why it cost—

SIR HENRY THORNTON: That is practically what it came down to, Mr. Euler. Some may say it was wisdom, others may say it was stupidity, but there it is.