

Government came into power. The town of Fort Frances has a population of about 4,000 and it has no public building of any kind. Its Immigration office, its Indian office and its post office and customs office are all located in ramshackle buildings which are entirely unsatisfactory. At various times I have taken this matter up, having brought it to the attention of previous ministers of public works as well as to the attention of the present minister, and they have all been very kind in promising early consideration of the question when spending any money on public buildings in the country, but nothing has been done. I should like at this moment once again to press upon the minister the desirability of doing something in this particular case, and I should like to have him give me an answer similar to that which he gave the hon. member (Mr. Pedlow). If any consideration is to be given to these smaller centres so far as the erection of new buildings is concerned, I insist that the town of Fort Frances, which is in dire need of attention, be not forgotten.

Mr. J. D. REID: I can assure the hon. member that in any consideration that may be given to the question of putting up new buildings the town of Fort Frances will not be overlooked.

Hamilton Postal Station "B", \$25,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is this for?

Mr. J. D. REID: This \$25,000 is required to complete the construction of the building for postal station "B," on the south side of Barton street, immediately east of Stirton street. Description of building: Brick structure, 58 ft. 8 in. x 40 ft. 6 in., with annex 19 ft. 3 in. x 32 ft. 8 in.; two stories and basement.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Queen's): When was this work started?

Mr. J. D. REID: In 1919.

Kingston Royal Military College—Enlargement of Educational block, \$265,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is a large item. Can the minister give us some information in regard to it?

Mr. J. D. REID: This building is under construction. The total amount of the contract is \$326,884. To complete the contract \$210,000 is required; for fittings and furniture, \$25,000; for sidewalks and concrete work, \$10,000; for superintendence, \$20,000, making the total of \$265,000 which is now asked for. I have seen the building, which is a wing of the Royal Military College, and it justifies the expenditure.

[M. Manion.]

Mr. COPP: When was the contract let?

Mr. J. D. REID: The date of the contract is April 12, 1919.

Mr. DENIS: It seems to me that just after the war this huge expenditure might have been avoided. This is a very large contract in these hard times, and for my part I am not satisfied that sufficient explanation has been given to show the necessity for this expenditure.

Mr. J. D. REID: The matter was all discussed last session when the Estimates were up. The contract has been let and the work proceeded with. In a reply to a letter from the Deputy Minister of Public Works of June 7, inquiring as to the necessity of a list of works requested by the Department of Militia and Defence to be noted in the Supplementary Estimates, the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, under date of 23rd of June, states as follows:

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., and to inform you that the various items contained in your letter have been carefully gone into and it is requested that the following items which are urgently required be provided for in your Supplementary Estimates:

Enlargement of Educational Block.. \$150,000
Complete new dormitory, adding two

wings. 100,000
It is hoped that every effort will be made to provide these items.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. J. D. REID: June 7, 1918. There was an item in the Estimates in connection with this matter last year, and the building must be very nearly completed by now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the total cost?

Mr. J. D. REID: The total cost is \$326,884.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would point out to the minister that that is about one-third of a million dollars and a very large sum of money to expend on a building that is primarily to serve military purposes. Can the minister give us any idea as to why the authorities require a building of this size at this particular time?

Mr. J. D. REID: I do not think there is any member in the House who will realize the importance of the Royal Military College in Kingston more than the leader of the Opposition. Personally, I think that the Royal Military College in Kingston is one of the best institutions in Canada, and it does not serve military purposes exclusively. The young men who are turned