

the hon. member for Gloucester wished to discuss something in connection with the Montreal postal terminal. I have not any objection to giving any information on any of these other matters if any hon. gentleman desires it.

Mr. DUFF: I think the Minister of Public Works is not perhaps quite right in his statement. Item 185 was passed and reported with the distinct understanding, I think, at the request of the hon. member for Quebec South and the hon. member for Gloucester, that when another item was called they could discuss if necessary certain items with regard to Quebec public buildings. Consequently if any member of the house now desires to discuss any question with regard to Quebec it can be done under another item. You are quite right, Mr. Chairman, in calling the next item.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hanson, York-Sunbury): That is the idea of calling item 186—to regularize the discussion.

Mr. GIROUARD: I thank you for your decision, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister give me some information in connection with the appropriation of \$14,500 in connection with the Victoriaville post office?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That item is for the finishing of the new building at Victoriaville.

Mr. GIROUARD: Does this amount of \$14,500 only provide for the building itself or does it provide also for the furniture and fixtures?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This amount of \$14,500 is required to complete the erection of the building, the construction of which is being performed by the Stewart Construction Company, Limited, under a contract price of \$35,600, and to provide for the furniture as well.

Mr. GIROUARD: Were tenders called for the furniture and fixtures?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. GIROUARD: When?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): For the fittings the tenders were as follows:

Gustave Mercure, Drummondville, \$1,716.25 or one type of fitting and \$1,887.87 for another type; The Canadian Office and School Furniture, Limited, Preston, \$1,785 for one type; the Interior Hardwood Company, Limited, Kitchener, \$2,175 for one type and \$2,175 for another; the Office Specialty Manufactur-

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

ing Company, Limited, Ottawa, \$2,819 for one type and \$3,100 for another; Renfrew Wood Products Company, Limited, Montreal, \$2,836 for one type and \$2,550 for another; H. E. Bourassa, Limited, Montreal, \$3,886.90 for one type and \$3,691.90 for another.

Mr. GIROUARD: Would the minister tell me if these tenders were advertised, and if so where they were advertised?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): These tenders were advertised in the regular way.

Mr. GIROUARD: Where?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): They were publicly advertised; that would be in the Canada Gazette and in the local papers in the vicinity where the work was being carried on.

Mr. GIROUARD: Is the minister aware that in Victoriaville, where the post office is being erected, no one was aware that tenders were being called, and that as a matter of fact no tenders were received from any persons in that city? All the tenders were from outside parties. Does not the minister believe it would have been more fair and just if tenders had been asked in Victoriaville itself?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I should be very much surprised indeed to learn that people in Victoriaville were not made aware of this tender. I am informed that a copy of the advertisement was sent to the hon. gentleman himself, and we have found in our experience that people specially interested in this kind of work generally get the contract. They are able to quote lower prices than local parties are able to quote. The regular procedure has been followed here; every opportunity has been given residents of Victoriaville to tender in this case.

Mr. GIROUARD: I believe the minister is under a wrong impression. I understood him to say that I had been sent a copy of the advertisement, and while I do not want to say that the minister has made an incorrect statement, I do not recall receiving such an advertisement. As a matter of fact, the minister will notice that among the tenders there was none from Victoriaville. Am I correct in that statement?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I accept the statement of the hon. gentleman that he did not receive a copy of the advertisement.

Mr. GIROUARD: I do not recall receiving it.