

in the preliminary plan one of the first things suggested was the building of this bridge over the canal and the railway lines to try and avoid some of the congestion in this part of the city, and that is now under way. An arrangement has been arrived at with the city of Ottawa whereby its contribution to that project will be \$300,000 and the federal district commission will provide the rest of the costs of the bridge. The contract for the bridge has been let, and that is preparatory to the other project of trying to do away with the railway tracks that come into the centre of the city, which it is felt contribute materially to the congestion which I am sure all hon. members have noticed is quite serious. I noticed it not more than two and a half hours ago when I had to go out to Government House. I thought I had provided ample time, twenty minutes, to get there, but I got there ten minutes late because of the traffic conditions.

Mr. Knowles: Look at the trouble you are going to have when you live out that way?

Mr. St. Laurent: Well, if there is no more rapid progress than has been made there is some chance of there being an improvement in conditions that will relieve traffic.

There has been and there is being constant progress made, but it is designed to keep pace with the appropriations that are provided by parliament for the implementation of the plan.

One subject that is still under discussion results from the declaration made by the Minister of Finance. Everybody knows that the city of Ottawa wants a new city hall. The Minister of Finance said that, if they placed the city hall on one of these sites that the plan indicates as proper sites for permanent public buildings, the federal district commission would contribute to the cost of the city hall.

There is no desire to have the city hall go on one of these sites, because it is felt that ultimately they will be required for buildings devoted to public purposes. If the city of Ottawa chooses—and it is still under discussion, I understand—to erect an office building for a city hall elsewhere, that would not interfere with the ultimate implementation of the plan; it would not interest the federal district commission. This is one of the matters that are taking up some of the time of the federal district commission. There is another, the acquisition of land for the relocating of railway lines and sidings. That is proceeding. Another matter that has occupied their attention for the purpose of creating a feeling throughout the whole country of its interest in the national capital was the preparation and exhibition of the model which

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has been shown throughout the country and which has been seen by a very large number of Canadians and certainly has had a tendency to make them more interested in the capital city of the nation.

There are a great many things that will be done—not all at once, but successively—that are engaging attention. One is the selection of a site for a proper national gallery. The other evening hon. members expressed the hope that more convenient arrangements would be made to display and even to increase the treasures which have accumulated in the Canadian national gallery. I know the governors of the gallery are discussing with the federal district commission the selection of a site where a new gallery could be provided.

These are all matters which will, of course, be brought individually before parliament, as soon as they are ready for execution.

Mr. Noseworthy: What provision is being made so that hundreds of thousands of visitors to parliament hill in Ottawa may have a glimpse of that model?

Mr. St. Laurent: I understand work is being done to it to make it more complete. There was a most interesting suggestion in one of the Ottawa newspapers recently that during the summer months it should be on exhibition in these parliament buildings. That suggestion by the newspaper is receiving consideration.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Would the Prime Minister refresh our memories—and perhaps I should know—as to just where the powers and responsibilities lie from now on. Is it wholly in the federal district commission? The Prime Minister has referred to a further report as to the over-all plan to be produced this autumn and which, I think he said, would be distributed. To whom is it to be distributed? Is the matter of planning and execution wholly in the hands of the commission, so that all that rests with us is from time to time to vote the amounts required?

Mr. St. Laurent: There is a national planning commission. The architect employed by that commission is Mr. Greber, who has a staff assisting him. Mr. Greber's work goes to the national planning board and they report it to the federal district commission. The federal district commission reports it to the governor in council, and the Prime Minister reports it to the House of Commons. The real control lies in the fact that, unless it is something that meets with the approval of the House of Commons, it could not proceed. The house is called upon each year to provide an appropriation for its implementation, and it could make its displeasure known.