

will go, even though the cost is only \$100,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend may rely upon it that the government will not approve these plans unless they provide for a first-class hotel.

Mr. BENNETT. At what expenditure?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The plans show a splendid structure, one which will be an ornament and a credit to the city.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Has the minister any knowledge of what the government intend to exact from the Grand Trunk in the way of an expenditure on this hotel?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I cannot say further than this: I believe that the plans which have been approved by the city will also be approved by the Governor in Council, although I am not able to speak definitely on that point. If, on examination, it was thought by the government that there were any changes necessary, those changes would be insisted upon. But I have looked the plans over, and, speaking only for myself, I believe that if these plans are carried out the hotel as I have said will be such as will be a credit and an ornament to the city.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Does the government guarantee to carry out the plans?

Mr. PUGSLEY. These are the plans.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. They guarantee to carry them out?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Of course. That is the agreement with the city; and, when it comes to council, we would make that a stipulation—that the building should be in accordance with these plans.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. And that will necessitate the expenditure of a million and a half?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is what I have understood.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Bill is passed, does not the minister think that he ought to tell the committee what is the view of the government as to the expenditure that will be necessary? Surely he does not think that he will get his Bill through unless he pledges the government in some way to a minimum expenditure, that it should not be below a minimum expenditure. As it is, the minister has nothing but hearsay, what he saw in the newspapers, and what he believes will be the case. But his order in council gives absolute power to the government to say whether it shall be a hundred thousand building or a million building. We must have some statement of the policy of the government with reference to it.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think it would be extremely foolish on our part to insist that

Mr. BENNETT.

there shall be an expenditure of a million and a half, or a million, or four hundred thousand. If we get a building of this design, upon these plans which have been approved by the city council of Ottawa, which has devoted a great deal of consideration to the subject, would it not be an absurd thing for us to say to them: Although the building is erected upon these designs, although these plans are fully carried out, yet unless it actually costs \$1,500,000 the grant shall lapse. What we will stipulate is that the Grand Trunk Railway shall erect a building according to these plans and according to the specifications, and as at present advised, I would assume that the government is likely to approve of the plans and specifications which have been agreed upon by the city. My information is that this building will cost in the vicinity of \$1,500,000. If any member of the committee will look at these plans he will see that they provide for a very expensive and a very handsome building, which will give a large hotel accommodation. That being so, it seems to me it would be absurd for us to put in a provision that the building must cost exactly a certain sum of money, and that if it costs one dollar less, or \$5,000 less, the grant shall become void. It is our duty to stipulate for a handsome building, for a first-class hotel which will give first-class accommodation to the travelling public and will be an ornament to Canada and to the capital. When they do that, I think we will have done our full duty.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister might have a first-class hotel and built in first-class style that might cost \$250,000 or \$150,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My information is that a building erected according to these plans will cost in the vicinity of \$1,500,000. We must remember that two parties have to be consulted in regard to this matter. There is the city of Ottawa, which is vitally interested in this matter, because it has been making certain arrangements with the company I believe with regard to taxation, and after very lengthy deliberations and submission of plans from time to time, the present plans have been agreed upon as those which the city are satisfied will give a first-class hotel. Unless there is some very good reason, I assume that the government would not insist upon departing from those plans.

Mr. LENNOX. The minister is not meeting the point raised as regards the amount to be expended. It is customary in transactions of this kind to have a stated amount of expenditure. When the minister says that if a dollar less is expended we would be disposed to claim the forfeiture of the right granted to the company, that is not meeting the point at all. The company represent that they are going to put up a