

ernment must have known the newspapers were getting it. It appeared in connection with the published address of the Prime Minister. Now we are told that the whole thing is only tentative.

Mr. ELLIOTT: As regards the width of the pavement, my hon. friend and I are absolutely in agreement. It is not to be limited to the 64 feet he speaks of.

Mr. BOYS: Is the driveway to go through the centre of this very property we are discussing?

Mr. ELLIOTT: That was not the intention at the time the estimate was prepared.

Mr. BOYS: It is the intention according to the plan.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The plan which my hon. friend has in his hand is that of the Federal District Commission. The department intends to meet their views as far as it possibly can, so as to make what eventually will be a uniform scheme of beautification for the whole area that is being improved. So far as the pavement is concerned, what was contemplated was a certain amount of paving, flagstones to be laid down on a portion of it, with trees in between so as to produce the most attractive kind of park.

Mr. BOYS: I do not want to interrupt the minister, but this is such an appropriate time to ask the question that I can hardly resist. Am I to understand that there is some more definite scheme—something which is not tentative—showing exactly how this is to be paved?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is not settled as to exactly how it is to be done.

Mr. BOYS: Then it simply means that the minister has come to parliament for money, not knowing where in the world the paving is to be done, where the flagstones will be laid, or anything else in connection with the matter. When he came and asked for the money, one would have thought that an engineer or an architect would have been employed to lay the thing out in accordance with plans of the department, and that upon that basis an estimate would have been made. I can hardly imagine that the minister has come without that information. If so, he has come altogether too soon.

Mr. ELLIOTT: What we have in the estimates is the recommendation of the architect.

Mr. STEVENS: Read it.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It was made on the fifth of January, before the estimates were prepared.

Mr. STEVENS: Read it.

[Mr. Boys.]

Mr. ELLIOTT: I have given my hon. friend the details. The chief architect reported on the matter on January 5, 1928. He made the statement that until it was actually decided what was to be done in connection with this property, it was impossible to prepare an accurate estimate, but he considered the following items to represent the minimum cost: Pavement, 4,000 yards at \$4, \$16,000; grading, \$4,000; new sidewalks, \$1,440; drainage, surface drains, manholes, catch-basins, electric light poles and so forth, say, \$5,000. This represents a total of \$26,440. He provides for contingencies, \$2,000, making a total of \$28,440; and he suggests that a sum of \$30,000 be placed in the estimates.

Mr. BOYS: Then supposing we are in a motor car at the Russell hotel corner near the post office, and we want to drive to the parliament buildings. After this contemplated work is done, what course will that car follow to reach the southeast entrance to these grounds? Must we drive in front of the Russell house along Sparks or Rideau street, and then having reached Elgin street must we turn up just as the cars do now?

Mr. ELLIOTT: No; the plan which my hon. friend has before him will show what is contemplated.

Mr. BOYS: Then I can only say that the proposition before the committee is absolutely ridiculous, because the plan shows a driveway running diagonally through this property from the corner of the driveway up to the southeast entrance to these grounds. If that were the scheme there would be some continuity to it, but the minister has told the committee that this amount is required to pave the whole of this area; he has left the impression that when the work is finished there will be nothing but pavement in that area and the driveways will remain as they are at present. If an architect has been dealing with this matter surely he must know where the driveway is to be and surely the committee should be given that information. I will ask the minister to furnish that information before the item passes.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I think I have already said that if the scheme of the Federal District Commission as shown by that plan is followed, it alters the recommendation made by the architect on January 5, before that plan was drawn and before these estimates were printed. However, probably it does not much alter the actual expenditure which will be required.