

bert, represented by another stalwart supporter of the government (Mr. Davis) is to have no expenditure made there. Why do we not hear from him?

Mr. BENNETT. He is building railways.

Mr. BOYD. The town of Yorkton has a revenue of \$2,410 and there is no government expenditure there. I could continue to point out, Mr. Chairman, that there are twenty-three post offices in Manitoba with a revenue of from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and fourteen towns in the North-west Territories with a revenue running from \$1,000 to \$2,000 that I have said nothing about.

Mr. BENNETT. You throw them in.

Mr. BOYD. We will make a job lot of them. Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister of Public Works, who is a particularly good friend of mine, will admit, that it is most unfortunate that I should be compelled to become the champion of these towns in view of the fact that they are represented by stalwart and outspoken Liberals, who are usually here to speak for themselves if not too embarrassing to the government. I trust that when I come here next year I will not have to accuse the Minister of Public Works of neglecting these growing towns.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My hon. friend (Mr. Boyd) has referred to the small vote for incidental and unforeseen expenses in the province of Manitoba. Now as a matter of fact there is \$12,000 voted for Quebec and Ontario, \$12,000 for the maritime provinces, and I think the committee will agree with me that considering the number of buildings in Manitoba the vote of \$5,000 is comparatively large. I can assure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Boyd) that the department over which I preside could not think of putting up small buildings in the towns he has referred to. In view of the great progress and prosperity of that country, I have no doubt that in a short time they will require very much larger buildings than we would be able to give them at present. They will have due consideration when the time comes.

Valleyfield public buildings, \$15,000.

Mr. MONK. How long is it since this building was determined upon?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is two or three years since this vote was first taken.

Mr. MONK. Is there any correspondence between the local authorities and the department with regard to the selection of the site.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The deputy minister says that he does not remember of any.

Mr. MONK. Perhaps the ex-Minister of Public Works could give the information.

Mr. BOYD.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I know Valleyfield very well and before determining on the site I paid a visit to the town. There was practically only one site available. There were other pieces of ground but they were not fit for such a building. The population of Valleyfield is to-day about 15,000, and if things go on as they have been going on within five years it will be a city.

Mr. MACLEAN. Provided the tariff is alright.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. Well, it is to a large extent due to the fact that the tariff on cotton has been kept all right. I may say that I am responsible for the choice of the site.

Mr. MONK. When was the site decided upon by the department?

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I paid a visit to the place with one of my officers, and chose the site without telling anybody. I then instructed Mr. Dandurand, who is the agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway for land purchases, to purchase the site. Let me say immediately that the site formerly belonged to the sitting member, but it was not bought from him. It was the only site available for a public building there, all other available sites having been bought in the rush of business. I instructed Mr. Dandurand not to say a word to the sitting member, but to take an option on the site. It had been sold previously by the sitting member to a man named Johnston, if I remember rightly. Mr. Dandurand took every possible precaution to secure the site at a reasonable price.

Mr. SPROULE. What price did he pay?

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I do not remember exactly; I lost sight of the transaction. But it was conducted all through by one of the ablest real estate agents in Montreal, and I think everything was done uprightly.

Mr. MONK. When did Mr. Dandurand close this transaction?

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I think it was closed after I left office. But I gave instructions and was responsible.

Mr. MONK. The hon. minister might tell us at what date the transaction was closed?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The Order in Council was passed on the 22nd of November, 1902, authorizing the purchase from R. B. Johnston for the sum of \$10,000. The land is 77½ feet by 160 feet deep.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. The Bank of Hochelaga has bought a property there which is not worth half as much as this property and has paid a great deal more. I know we have made a good bargain.

Mr. MACLEAN. Speaking of this question of sites, I would like to throw out this suggestion. If the policy is to be continued