

Then there will be grading, estimated at \$4,000, and new sidewalks, \$1,440, besides drainage, surface drains, manholes, catch-basins electric light poles and other items running to, say, \$5,000. That is our best estimate.

Mr. HOCKEN: When the work is completed, is it proposed to make the spot a parking station for the people of Ottawa as the present plaza is?

Mr. ELLIOTT: No, that is not the intention.

Mr. CHAPLIN: What is the idea of paving 4,000 yards at \$4 a yard? That is a considerable item.

Mr. STEVENS: That is so the street cars can turn easily.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Four thousand yards at \$4 a yard represents altogether too high a figure; the estimate is entirely wrong.

Mr. ELLIOTT: If we can get it done for less we will do so.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I hope it will be done by contract. I know some people who would like to have that job at \$4 a yard.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): There is an old expression which has been often used, referring to persons spending money like drunken sailors, and I think it is applicable to this government in view of the way they are now seeking to spend the money of the people of this country. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent tearing down a city block, and now \$30,000 is required to cover that area with concrete in order to add to the general appearance of these parliament buildings and to beautify the city of Ottawa. In proposing an expenditure of this kind the government are giving another example of their absolute disregard for the needs of the people of Canada in those hundreds of places throughout the country which have inadequate accommodation both as to post offices and otherwise. The government are showing no concern in matters of public health and other questions of vital interest; there is no money for such things, but they can tear down a perfectly good city block in Ottawa and now ask for \$30,000 to clean up that little bit of land consisting of only about a quarter of an acre. That sum would clean up about fifty acres of the most heavily timbered land in British Columbia. Therefore I am going to move, Mr. Chairman that this item be reduced to \$25,000.

[Mr. Elliott.]

Mr. PECK: May I ask the area of this piece of land?

Mr. BLACK (Halifax): Is there any plan of the proposed alterations or improvements?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Halifax): Could we have a look at it? This sum of \$16,000 for putting in a few little paths astonishes me. This is a small piece of land, and I do not see where \$16,000 can be spent in that way.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is the estimate of the chief architect.

Mr. CHAPLIN: What is the area of the land?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The area which it is proposed to pave is 4,000 square yards.

Mr. CHAPLIN: What are the dimensions of the plot?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I do not know that I can give my hon. friend the exact area of the plot.

Mr. STEVENS: Why not make it a nice green grass plot; that will cost about one-tenth or one-twentieth of this amount and will have a much more pleasing effect. The only excuse I can see for this amount is to provide for a job which should be done by the Ottawa Electric Railway. I have before me an item which reads, "Certain property described as part of lot 27 south on Wellington street" but the minister has not extended the price or the size.

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is not settled yet.

Mr. STEVENS: Can the minister not tell me the area?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Only the area it is proposed to pave.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Will the minister say whether there was a contract for demolishing the buildings?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. CHAPLIN: And the government received so much for the salvage?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. CHAPLIN: When the contract was drawn, why was not some arrangement made to have these people take the other stuff that was there when they took the salvage? You let them tear down the buildings for salvage and leave all their rubbish, while we must