

know that we have not enough traffic in Canada at this time to put on special aeroplanes to carry mail only. But let us be frank with the Canadian people. Let us tell them exactly where we are getting the money. Last year 69.5 per cent of the money necessary to balance the budget of Trans-Canada Air Lines came from this one source. The other alternative would be to make a contract which, according to the evidence given by the official of the department, would be fairer to the Post Office Department than the contract at present in force. If there is a deficit, let us face it and pay it as we pay the deficit of the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I have been greatly impressed, in discussing this service, with the efficiency displayed by the officials of this department. I feel that the minister is most fortunate in having within his department men who have made such a careful study of the development of similar services in other countries, as I believe we are very fortunate in having such a well developed service here. Would the minister tell us what increase would be required in the volume of mail carried before the service would pay its own way?

Mr. MULOCK: During the month of July, 1939, the average was about 1,599 pounds a day. This year it is about 2,538 pounds a day. At the present rate, that is on the basis of the 60 cent rate, we estimate that it would take about 4,700 pounds a day to break even on operating expenses.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

281. Departmental administration, \$190,415.

Mr. MacNICOL: I notice that the department is getting into the habit of employing outside architects to a considerable extent. Perhaps that is a commendable practice; I do not know, but I should like to compliment several of these architects on their splendid work. For instance, the architect for the new supreme court building, E. Cormier, Montreal, deserves a great deal of credit for the handsome design of that building. The same remarks apply to the architects for the magnificent, unique new building in London, Ontario, who, I believe, were Messrs. Watt and Blackwell. Then there is Craig and Madill, who were architects for the beautiful new post office in West Toronto. In all these instances I think the department deserves credit for the fine structures which have been put up. On the other hand, I always believe in giving a great deal of credit to our own

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

architects and engineers in the department. In going outside the department I hope there is no reflection on the men in the department here at Ottawa. They are equal to the best.

Item agreed to.

Chief Architect's branch.

283. Ottawa—Maintenance and operation of dominion public buildings and grounds, including rents, repairs, furniture, heating, et cetera, \$2,683,989.

Mr. PURDY: I should like to draw to the attention of the minister an item which appeared a few days ago in the *Ottawa Journal*, pointing out that tenders had been closed on August 1 in connection with the installation of an oil heating system for the Daly building. At that time I had a question on the order paper asking the government if, so far as possible, Canadian fuel would be used for all public buildings in Canada. The answer from the Department of Public Works was, yes, in both instances.

It seems to me there is a certain amount of inconsistency. On the one hand we are told by the newspaper that the government is about to instal an oil-burning plant in the Daly building, to replace a coal-burning plant. On the other hand, I am told that in order to conserve exchange, in every instance so far as possible the government will insist upon using fuel produced in Canada. I admit that a certain amount of oil is produced in Canada, but certainly not to the extent of making it exclusively a Canadian fuel. Is the newspaper report with regard to the installation of an oil-burning system in the Daly building correct?

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Public Works): The information of the hon. member is quite correct. This is an exceptional case. As a rule, as far as possible we use Canadian coal, but in certain instances we use oil. In regard particularly to the Daly building, I may point out that during past years complaints have been made to the department by the management of the Chateau Laurier, and it has been pointed out that at times the situation was intolerable. For a number of years I have lived in that hotel. My room happens to be on the east side, and not far removed from the Daly building. At certain times when fresh coal was added to the fires the situation was quite intolerable. I have had to close the windows. The curtains on the windows of rooms on the east side of the Chateau Laurier have to be changed several times a week, if they want to keep them clean. The sills of the windows are always covered with coal dust. I submit that in those circumstances we might consider this case exceptional.