

Mr. ELLIOTT: My hon. friend is quite wrong. It was for remodelling, renovating and rebuilding, and to provide for a permanent addition for servants' quarters. Will any hon. gentleman say that after the expenditure of \$100,000 we should stop short of making the necessary repairs to bring this building into a habitable condition, and into such a state of perfection as will make it a suitable residence for the representative of the sovereign in this country? Once the repairs are made, will anyone say that the motion of my hon. friend that we do not furnish these quarters, after we have built the house, is a reasonable proposition?

Mr. SPENCE: What furnishings are there now?

Mr. ELLIOTT: They are the old furnishings, a number of which have practically fallen apart and are of practically no use. It means renewal of the furniture. The motion before the house means that we can go on and complete the building, but not furnish it after it is built, and I would urge upon the committee that we do not place ourselves in any such position as that.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): How long is it since the governor general stayed there?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I think 1915 was the last year he resided there.

Mr. HANSON: How many weeks in the year did the governor general reside there when he did go there?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It varied.

Mr. HANSON: About two weeks in the year.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Not a great portion of the year; that is quite right.

Mr. HANSON: Two weeks per annum—\$70,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I want to give the house all the information we have. I have given this matter very careful consideration. I hope that I am as economically inclined as any member of this committee, and with perhaps a little more intimate knowledge of the circumstances than any other member of the committee, I have come to the conclusion that this is the only thing we can do if we are to maintain the position which I am sure all hon. members are anxious that we should maintain for the representative of the sovereign in this country. I submit to my hon. friend that it is not desirable to build a house and then leave it absolutely unfurnished, and I urge upon him not to press his motion.

[Mr. W. R. Fansher.]

Mr. SPENCE: The minister said that if this money was spent it would bring the citadel to a state of perfection. Will he give the committee the assurance that he will not come back next year and ask for another \$150,000? Have you seen the citadel yourself? Do you know what you are talking about? Hon. members come here and tell this committee what other people have told them. They know nothing of the situation themselves, and they try to fool the committee. That is all they are trying to do. Let the minister give this committee the assurance—we have confidence in him—that he will not come back again next year for another vote for this purpose. If he will give us a positive statement of that kind he will get some support, but you cannot get any the way you are going. We are not opposed to this vote at all because it is for Quebec. We are all proud of the city of Quebec, and we would be glad to vote money for the citadel if we knew that it would be spent in the right way, but we do not know anything about it. There is nothing but deception everywhere.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) a moment ago asked what was the last time the governor general's quarters at Quebec had been occupied by the representative of the crown in this country. The answer already given is I believe, correct: it was in 1915 during the regime of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. That was I understand the last occasion on which the governor general made Quebec his headquarters for any considerable part of the year. Prior to that time it had been the custom, running back many years beyond the days of confederation, for the representative of the crown to spend part of his time at what we, of this Dominion, speak of at times as the ancient capital. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught discontinued the customary visits to Quebec because of the war and the conditions arising therefrom throughout the country.

When His Excellency Lord Byng came to Canada he wished as the representative of the crown, to resume the practice of visiting Quebec during part of the year and residing at the citadel. I recall very well the conversation I had with His Excellency in regard to his visit there. Lord Byng said to me at the time that he much regretted having to give up the custom that all his predecessors had followed, for the reason that the quarters of the governor general at the citadel had fallen into such disrepair during the time of