

Supply—Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Garson: We have not any of the same kind of house at St. Vincent de Paul.

Mr. Bryce: Have you nothing by means of which to make a comparison?

Mr. Garson: These ones we are talking about at Stony Mountain have all been built within the last one and a half or two years. As I indicated before, not all these houses at all the penitentiaries are of the same age or of the same quality; nor are they alike in many respects. So that if my hon. friend has a complaint to make about some specific house, if he would tell us what penitentiary he is talking about and what type of house it is, we shall be glad to give him the figure as to the rent, what kind of house it is and the like.

Mr. Bryce: To stop any argument about it, can the minister supply me with the rent and the number of rooms in the houses at the different penitentiaries?

Mr. Garson: Not out of my head tonight, but I shall be glad to do so later.

Mr. Bryce: I do not ask for it tonight.

Mr. Garson: Certainly I will let you have it.

Mr. Bryce: You will let me have that?

Mr. Garson: Certainly.

Mr. Bryce: Then I will have that information.

Mr. Garson: I shall be glad to do that for you.

Item agreed to.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Privy Council office—

277. To provide for expenses of the royal commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences, \$175,000.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Will the Prime Minister say something about this?

Mr. St. Laurent: I understand that the royal commission has practically finished its public hearings with the exception of those that are to take place in Newfoundland, and that they are leaving for Newfoundland on July 6. I further understand that the work of preparing the narrative part of the report has reached an advanced stage, and that the commissioners have been working very steadily and continuously at the consideration of the recommendations that it will be proper to make in that report whilst supervising the furtherance of the narrative part of the report.

I hope that the report will be available in the early fall. Of course that is a hope, but the conversations I have had with members of the commission have led me to hope that

[Mr. Bryce.]

we might expect that sometime in October we can get this report. I know the members of the commission have found the work very interesting; but they are men and women who have other important duties; and they feel that it will be desirable for them to discharge their responsibilities in this connection just as expeditiously as will be compatible with the purpose of a job which they wish to be one that will be helpful to the Canadian people and a credit to themselves.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Can the Prime Minister give us any special reason for the substantial increase in cost? Was the scope extended from that originally intended?

Mr. St. Laurent: The general scope was not extended, but it was found by the commissioners as they went along that they would expedite their work by employing a larger staff than they had when they started out, and by getting special studies made by ladies and gentlemen who they felt were qualified to make those special studies for them.

Mr. Fleming: In view of the importance of the report may I ask if when it is printed the Prime Minister will send copies to the members without waiting to table the report at the next session?

Mr. St. Laurent: That is a matter which will receive consideration. The public will be anxious to get the report, and we will be anxious to act in such a way as will not incur displeasure from the public.

Item agreed to.

Federal district commission—

279. Expenses of the national capital planning committee, \$100,000.

Mr. Fleming: Will the Prime Minister give us a brief report of what progress is being made with the national capital project?

Mr. St. Laurent: Hon. members will recall that a preliminary report was made on the plan last year. I will just say in a general way that it is to be a master plan to indicate what would be the desirable things to have done for the purpose of a convenient national capital for a larger population than Canada has today, without its being intended to carry out the project in any short number of years. It is designed more particularly to prevent the doing of things that might have to be undone to achieve the ultimate implementation of the plan.

I understand that the final report of the Greber commission is for a large part now in the hands of the printer and will be available quite soon. Hon. members will recall that