

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. No, the hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals said that this was to provide an addition to the workshop at Moncton. Here are his words :

We propose to put up an entirely new building 150 feet x 50 feet and about 50 feet high.

It may refer to another item.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The item was \$25,000 in last year's estimates and it read :

To extend freight car repair shop at Moncton.

Mr. SPROULE. It was the same last year.

To extend freight car repair shop at Moncton.

This is an extension of the car shops at Moncton ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Is this a one storey building ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is practically a one storey building ?

Mr. SPROULE. And a wooden building ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. And it is to cost how much ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$40,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What kind of a finish will there be ? Will it be dressed lumber and finished with California siding ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is a plain wooden building.

Mr. SPROULE. There would be a material difference in the price if it were a plain wooden building in the rough as compared with a building constructed of dressed lumber which would make it more suitable for cold weather.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This includes the heating, I am told. It is under contract so that it is fair to assume that the estimate is reasonable.

Mr. BLAIN. How much was expended on the building last year ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is estimated that for the year just closed there was spent \$12,500. This is not the actual sum but it is the estimate made some little time ago.

Mr. BLAIN. That was the expenditure last year and the hon. minister is asking for \$15,000 this year to expend upon this building.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$25,000 was voted last year.

Mr. BLAIN. What is the hon. minister asking for now ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$27,500—\$12,500 of a revote and \$15,000 additional.

Mr. BLAIN. To further extend the building ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. To cover the cost of the same building that the hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals referred to last year.

Mr. BLAIN. How are these estimates made up ? Is there any plan prepared in the department upon which the minister asks for an appropriation ? I suppose that before he asks for an appropriation an officer from the department goes to the place, looks over the ground and estimates as to how much the work will cost ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, the engineer makes a plan and estimate.

Mr. BLAIN. How is it possible that the officers of the department are so wide of the mark in their estimates as they appear to have been in this case ? I am quite sure the hon. minister does not endorse that sort of thing.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I would certainly like to see estimates made more closely.

Mr. BLAIN. Does the hon. minister not think that it is misleading ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think it needs an explanation.

Engine house, machine shop, car shop, stores, office at Rivière du Loop, \$50,000.

Mr. BARKER. This is a revote ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is entirely a revote.

Mr. BARKER. Perhaps this may be considered unnecessary after a little inquiry. Do you really want such an expenditure at Rivière du Loup ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This money was not expended because the work was not needed but there was some difficulty in getting a site and therefore the work has not gone forward. There is no question that the work is needed.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. What will be the total cost ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not find the engineer's estimate for this work, but tenders are being invited now.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. After the experience we have had in the past I am afraid we must insist upon the details of the expenditure.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Very good; let the item stand.

Item allowed to stand.

Engine house, &c., at Chaudière Junction, \$50,000.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. What is the explanation of that ?