

Mr. PUGSLEY: What number of immigrants are coming to William's Head?

Mr. REID: I know there was a very large number last year.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Coming from where?

Mr. REID: The Orient.

Mr. PUGSLEY: This seems to me a very large expenditure for a quarantine station water supply.

Mr. REID: All the vessels have to stop there. I understand there will be more immigrants next year.

Dawson post office—vault, \$10,000.

Mr. KYTE: Some days ago I put some questions on the Order Paper with reference to this item. I asked the minister if he had any report from his officials asking that this expenditure be made, and he answered yes. I also asked him to produce the correspondence, and he replied in the affirmative, but I have not received it yet.

Mr. REID: I remember looking up the matter. All who have made recommendations in this matter agree that the vault is in a very bad condition. The deputy minister will send over the correspondence to my hon. friend. I understand that a telegram came not very long ago from Ernest Revard saying that this expenditure was no longer necessary, but that was when he was no longer agent of the Public Works Department. He seems to have changed his mind since he severed his connection with the department.

Mr. PUGSLEY: There is a vault there at present, is there not?

Mr. REID: This vote of \$10,000 is to be applied in tearing down and rebuilding the vault in the Dawson post office building, which has been sinking. This vault was not built on a proper foundation in the first place and is gradually dropping down into the earth and at the same time toppling over; in its present condition it is not fire-proof, and in the event of the building being destroyed by fire, the vault would be almost certain to topple over and break up, and even if it stood, would not protect the contents from fire.

Dawson being built on a glacial formation, any building or heavy weight, to be substantially placed and remain true in its position, must have foundations put down (12 feet) through the muck and ice over burden to the frozen gravel below. Nothing else will stand. The weight of this vault, as it settles, is shoving over the whole post

office building to such an extent that doors and windows have been crushed out of position, the floors and ceilings cracked and pulled down to a slant. The present vault is enclosed in the main building, and it is proposed to erect the new vault outside of and connecting with the building on the inside only. The vault doors will be stationed, and access will be had to them from the main building. The outside dimensions of vault will be 12x14 feet, with stone wall 12 feet high; brick wall on top 25 feet high, and chimney erected at the corner of the vault. The reconstruction of vault has been recommended by the Department of the Interior October 20, 1916, and by Mr. George Black, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, in a letter dated 24th August, 1916. I also remember seeing a letter from the Collector of Customs, another from the postmaster, and one from Mr. Revard himself.

Mr. KYTE: Does not the minister think it would be well to have an inquiry to verify the facts, inasmuch as Mr. Revard has notified the department that there is no expenditure required, as the vault is in good condition? Does not the minister think it would be well to inquire why Mr. Revard has changed his mind?

Mr. REID: I feel this way about it. Mr. Revard, when agent of the department recommended this expenditure. It has also been recommended by the gentlemen I have mentioned, in all of whom I have confidence. I think that Mr. Revard must have some grievance, and is now trying to prevent this expenditure. At all events, the agent of the department will look into this matter before we proceed with it.

Mr. GRAHAM: Who is the agent?

Mr. REID: No one has been appointed yet.

Mr. KYTE: When did Mr. Revard cease to be the agent?

Mr. REID: I do not know the exact date, but the correspondence will show.

Mr. KYTE: Would the minister let the item stand for the present?

Mr. ROCHE: I had the privilege of being in Dawson city a year ago last summer, and was taken through this building by the officials. It was undoubtedly in a very dangerous condition. The floor had sunk very considerably, and the partitions had drawn away from the ceiling. It was impressed upon me how necessary it was to have this vault rebuilt. I know nothing