

the Government; I am only stating my private views on the subject.

Mr. CAHILL: What is the revenue from this property?

Mr. CARVELL: I have not that information, but I will get it for my hon. friend. This item has been voted yearly since 1900.

Yukon Territory—Dawson post office—vault, \$10,000

Mr. COPP: Is that work to be done this year?

Mr. CARVELL: The vote was taken last year, but the money was not expended. In Dawson difficulty is experienced in obtaining proper foundations for such works as vaults. The population of Dawson is decreasing, and a Bill has been, or is to be, introduced by the Minister of the Interior providing for the reconstruction and rearrangement of governmental affairs in the Yukon Territory. I hope that there will be a very great reduction in the expenditure there. I am not in a position, therefore, to say positively whether or not this work will go on, but I am morally certain that it will not.

Ottawa public buildings—Dominion Observatory and Geodetic Survey building—heating, including salaries of engineers, firemen and watchmen, \$230,000.

Mr. CARVELL: In all probability this item will not meet the expenditure. I wish to place myself on record in this respect, because the cost of fuel is advancing rapidly. It may be necessary to put an item in the Supplementary Estimates under this head. We have purchased 10,000 cords of wood and intend to see whether we can heat these buildings, at least to some extent, with wood during the coming winter. The wood is really costing more than coal, having regard to its heating value.

Mr. TOBIN: How much per cord?

Mr. CARVELL: It is \$10 or \$11 for hardwood. That is less than the price in many parts of Canada.

Ottawa public buildings—Repairs, furniture, grounds, snow and street maintenance, etc., \$450,000.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is a very large item.

Mr. CARVELL: It is a large item, but I do not know of any way to reduce it. If my hon. friend can tell me some way of cutting it down I will be very glad indeed to take his suggestion.

[Mr. Carvell.]

Mr. CHISHOLM: Less furniture and cheaper furniture.

Mr. CARVELL: Unless you can find any cheaper furniture than we have around this room, or than you have in the ordinary rooms occupied by members, you cannot find any fault on account of extravagance there. This is a sample of the furniture that is being purchased by the department all over the city. To be serious about it, the difficulty is that the Civil Service has increased very materially since the beginning of the war and they all require furniture, rugs and things of that kind to make their offices habitable. This item also includes repairs. I suppose the ordinary man is very much like the ordinary woman. When a man rents a house the first thing his wife wants is to have new paper on the walls, to have the house painted and to have everything rearranged. It is about the same thing in the departments. When they get into an office building they want the old partitions torn down, new partitions set up and painted and the walls kalsomined. I do not know of any way of stopping it. I am putting on the brakes as best I can, but I do not see much hope of reducing the item to any great extent.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: Is this sum expended just in Ottawa or all over Canada?

Mr. CARVELL: Just in Ottawa.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: You are maintaining the streets here?

Mr. CARVELL: No, just public buildings.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: The item says "street maintenance, etc." If I could have the city of Montreal made the capital we would have lots of money expended in our city for removing snow and doing all those other things.

Mr. CARVELL: There is a large portion of Wellington street, extending from the Chateau as far as the old Perley Home, which has been built and is maintained, at the expense of the Government. This also includes certain expenditures in the parks, taking care of the walks around the different buildings, the driveways and things of that kind.

Mr. LEMIEUX: And the lawns?

Mr. CARVELL: Yes, it covers the lawns too.