

bound to inform this Committee now and the hon. member who made the accusation, and who, I regret to say, is not present, that the special car was placed at my disposal by the Great Western Railway Company free of charge, that it did so in compliment to myself as a representative of my Province and of my race and a member of the Government. I need not speak of the steamer, because the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Patterson) truly stated that all the cost of that excursion on the river was paid by my friends, Reformers and Conservatives, in that region. I may add now that the Grand Trunk Railway Company also placed their special car at my disposal under the same circumstances; and that none of these cars in which I travelled in Ontario cost the country a single cent. The journey cost no one anything, but myself in the work, anxiety and fatigue which I experienced. I think that even the most robust of the hon. gentlemen opposite would have been considerably fatigued had they been obliged to undergo the same journey. Now we come to the next item, the St. Catharines Post Office and Custom House, \$16,500. The total amount voted for St. Catharines in 1881 was \$6,000; in 1882, \$15,000; and \$16,000 is now asked for, making a total of \$37,500. \$16,000 will be required. At Chatham the work would cost \$43,000. We have \$8,000, and \$20,000 is now asked for. London Post Office would require for minor improvements, \$7,500.

Mr. KILLAM. On what principle are applications for Custom Houses and Post Offices granted? In many cases Custom Houses and Post Offices are being provided in towns which are not so important as others which are entirely neglected. In regard to the salaries of postmasters, it may not be known that the Post Office Act fixes the salaries of postmasters in different towns on a certain fixed principle, that is they are paid 40 per cent. of the receipts, taking the average receipts for a number of years. In some towns allowances are made for fuel and light, but in certain cities where buildings are provided by the Government, fixed salaries are paid to the postmasters.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. When the attention of the Department is called to a want of public buildings at any place, I send an officer to examine the facts or I go myself. Last summer I visited Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, especially such points as were stated to require public buildings. I informed myself about the wants of the different localities. When I found public buildings were required I reported the fact to my colleagues, and the result is seen in the Estimates before the Committee.

Mr. KILLAM. Then no comprehensive system has been adopted by the Government, but only such places as the hon. Minister has seen fit to visit received the benefit of his attention. He has not taken the trouble to look at large over the Dominion and has visited some places of minor importance to others that have been omitted.

103. Public Building in Manitoba..... \$87,500

Mr. HOOPER. The Immigration Office at Emerson is not worth \$400 or \$200, but I observe that last year \$400 were voted to complete it. The immigration shed is altogether too small, and a further sum should be placed in the Estimates for buildings for the accommodation of immigrants and an immigration office.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I did not expect the hon. gentleman to put a question about the Estimates of last year. If he wishes the information, I shall be happy to give it to him on concurrence. So far as I am informed there is an officer there maintained by the Department and one agent, and the shed has been enlarged.

103. Manitoba Penitentiary..... \$32,000

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is for the heating apparatus and for alterations in the cells and the roof and blinds and charges. Authorized but not paid for, \$3,000.

103. Parliament Buildings, Winnipeg..... \$30,000

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is to continue the contract given last year. \$90,000 was stated as the expected cost, but I think we will have to ask a thousand and more on account of the increase in labor and material.

Mr. CASGRAIN. How is it that we are obliged to build Parliament Buildings for Manitoba.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. When the other Provinces came into Confederation they had their Parliament Buildings and these were allowed by the Federal Government to be used by the Province. As Manitoba was a new Province and had no buildings, Parliament last year voted a sum for the purpose of constructing public buildings and a residence for the Lieut.-Governor.

In reply to Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT,

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The cost of the Lieut.-Governor's residence was expected to be \$55,000, including furniture, but I think we shall have to have more owing to the increase to which I have referred in labor and material.

Mr. CASEY. There is no vote this year for the Post Office in Winnipeg. We know by bitter experience that the Post Office accommodation there is not good and that letters are much delayed.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We intend doubling the Post Office, and putting in two doors so as to allow a separate exit and entrance. The Government has also under consideration the project of building an entirely new building.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. There seems to be a very serious deficiency in the accommodation for immigrants, and some of the hardships suffered by people going into that country have, no doubt, resulted from this. I would like to know if any improvements are to be made.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The Government is increasing the accommodation of the immigrant sheds throughout the West, and we will have in the Supplementary Estimates a sum of money voted for that purpose.

Mr. CASEY. I would like to call the attention of the Government to the fact that by following the example of enterprising hotel proprietors in Winnipeg and erecting large tents they could accommodate immigrants perfectly well for the summer, and avoid the delay that would be caused by putting up buildings.

Mr. TROW. I would like to ask if there are any regulations as to the time when immigrants shall remain in the sheds.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. gentleman will see that that is a matter that can best be regulated on the spot. Immigrants are sent on with the land guides as soon as they have ascertained definitely where their lots are.

Mr. TROW. I spoke of this because I know of cases of persons remaining in the immigrant sheds while the head of the family was off working, the people occupying rooms in the immigrant sheds to the detriment of others more deserving.

104. Public Buildings, North-West Territories..... \$15,000

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is to keep up the buildings and prevent them from being destroyed. There is \$10,000 re-vote for the lunatic asylum.

105. Public Buildings, British Columbia..... \$38,000

In reply to Mr. BUNSTER,

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. For a quarantine station, at Victoria \$5,000 is asked by the Minister of Agriculture,