

This will reduce the vote to \$15,000, a sum sufficient to build two greenhouses of the dimensions that he speaks of.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Was this money voted last year and not spent?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. SPENCE: I do not see how any minister can expect to get this vote through, knowing as little as he does about the business. A year ago he had no plan to submit to the committee, and now he comes back as per usual without any information.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I think my hon. friend has not yet clearly understood what is intended by this vote. True, we have not the plans and specifications. Certain changes in the local buildings at the present time are partly responsible for the location not having yet been settled, but this will be considered, and my hon. friend may rest assured that this greenhouse will be located in the most desirable spot. No doubt both my hon. friends have a great deal of experience with regard to the construction of greenhouses, but I can assure them that a larger greenhouse than has been suggested by either of them will be necessary to meet the requirements of the parliament buildings. All we are aiming at is the substitution of a new building for an old and worn out one. The new building will provide better facilities and it has been urgently demanded. We are not proceeding precipitately in this matter. For a number of years this demand has been made, the building being absolutely required. I do not know that there is any further information that I can give. My hon. friends know that for less money a suitable building to replace the present one could not be constructed.

Mr. CHAPLIN: If the minister could give us some idea of the size of the greenhouse we could tell whether it could be constructed for less or not; but he does not give us any information.

Mr. ELLIOTT: When the plans are completed public tenders will be called for, and the lowest tender will be accepted. That is a safeguard against the payment of any undue price. My hon. friends may have no worry on that score.

Amendment (Mr. Spence) negatived: yeas, 31; nays, 52.

Ottawa—improvement of square west of post office, \$30,000.

Mr. STEVENS: Is this the first vote for the improvement of the square west of the post office?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is the first vote, but my hon. friend understands that it is for the improvement of the square after the removal of the buildings, including cleaning up and putting the square into proper shape.

Mr. STEVENS: I do not want to inconvenience the minister, but I will ask two questions: First, out of what vote is the cleaning up of the present work being paid? Secondly, will the minister explain what this vote is to be used for?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The cleaning up going on at present is to be paid for out of the proceeds of the removal of the building. We are receiving something over \$8,000 by way of salvage from the removal of the buildings, and what is now being done in the way of cleaning up is being provided for out of that.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister has not answered the second question; I will add a third to it. How is this going to be spent, and why is the money not spent out of the grant to the Federal District Commission?

Mr. ELLIOTT: This is not part of the Federal District Commission's work; the section west of the post office is not under the jurisdiction of the commission.

Mr. STEVENS: Then we are to understand that some half a million we voted last year, and this \$30,000—and undoubtedly more money will be spent on this improvement scheme—are all in addition to the statutory vote of \$3,000,000 voted a few days ago?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The statutory vote of \$3,000,000 relates to the Federal District Commission. This is not under the commission.

Mr. STEVENS: It is in addition?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes.

Mr. HOCKEN: What work will be done with this vote? Is it proposed to use it to pay for the removal of the present post office?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Not at all.

Mr. HOCKEN: Is it merely to clean up the spot and put some grass on it?

Mr. ELLIOTT: As the work progresses the department will be able to decide better as to what will be required. At present the estimate is for a considerable amount of paving, running to about 4,000 yards at \$4 a yard. That represents \$16,000. The pavement will be the main part of the work