

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
Yes.

Mr. MONK. In that estimate I see \$2,223 for contingencies. I have not the special knowledge required to criticise the estimate, but \$18,500 seems a very large amount for the laying of water pipe from St. John to this quarantine island a distance of some two thousand feet.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. It is more than that. What has been done with reference to the heating system? I called the attention of the chief architect to the fact that the heating system was over the heads of the people in their beds and had a very bad effect. Has anything been done to remedy this?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My hon. friend took an appropriation last session for the purpose of making that improvement. The chief architect says a change has been made and is satisfactory.

Mr. BROCK. I think there is a matter of greater importance than looking into details in connection with this quarantine station. Last year we voted \$17,000 in this connection and this year we are asked to vote \$8,000 more. Will that be the last?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The estimate of the department is that this will complete the work.

Alexandria public building, \$10,000.

Mr. PRINGLE. I would like to know if a site has been procured, and if so, from whom and when? I do not want to object particularly to a public building in the village of Alexandria, if it be the policy of the government to build post offices costing some \$17,000 each in villages having a population of less than 2,000. Looking at the census of 1901, I find that Alexandria has only a population a little over 1,900. I think that the total number of families in the village is 378. It seems to me that to spend \$17,000 on a post office in that village, where the gross revenue is only a little over \$2,500, from which you will have to deduct the expense of management and caretaking, will be anything but a profitable investment. However, as I said, I do not wish to make any objection. It is in the county adjoining that in which I reside, and it is no doubt the most important town in that county. But it seems to me a very large expenditure on a post office in a small town. I would like to ask if the land has been acquired and tenders called for for the building; also will \$17,000 complete the post office in the village of Alexandria? If the land has been acquired, from whom was it purchased?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The site has not yet been procured nor the contract let.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I would urge upon my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works

Mr. MONK.

(Hon. Mr. Sutherland) to give special consideration to the question of ventilation in public buildings. This has not been attended to as it should have been. Before I left office I called the attention of the chief architect to this point in several instances. I feel also that greater attention should be given to protection against fire. Many of our public buildings have no system of fire protection whatever. The chief architect is a very painstaking officer. I take this opportunity of stating that there is not a better officer in the Department of Public Works. But he has too much work to attend to, and I would call the attention of the minister to the need of giving the chief architect more help, more efficient help.

Mr. SCHELL. I desire to make a remark or two in answer to the hon. member for Cornwall and Stormont (Mr. Pringle). The hon. gentleman gives the population of Alexandria as 1,900. I may say that a special census of the town was taken last year, showing that the population was over 2,800. And, since that time Alexandria has been erected into a town.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What was the population by the regular census of 1901.

Mr. SCHELL. It was 1,911.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Has it increased 900 in that time?

Mr. SCHELL. It has. And, more than that, it has grown that much more during the past year. It has grown to such an extent that, within the last year the Union Bank has put up a building and now has finer bank premises than there is in the town of Cornwall. The Bank of Ottawa also has built a bank upon the opposite corner. The town of Alexandria is growing to-day at a rate exceeded by very few towns in eastern Canada or any part of Ontario.

Mr. BROCK. I would point out to the hon. Minister of Public Works, as he has not selected a site in Alexandria, that he is apt to meet with difficulty when he seeks to buy land in a town growing at such a rate as we have just heard of. It seems there has been an increase in one year of 25 per cent, and now there is a further increase of a like proportion. I think the hon. minister will have to add to this estimate, for he will hardly be able to please the people of Alexandria with anything like the money fixed by this vote.

Mr. SCHELL. I can assure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) that there are two sites under consideration, one at \$2,000 and the other at \$2,500.

Mr. BENNETT. How much land?

Mr. SCHELL. One lot is 66x90 feet; I do not remember the size of the other.

Mr. PRINGLE. I took the trouble to look at the census of 1901, and I find that the