

The WITNESS: I think the theoretical objection is getting children upstairs and making them subject to a fire hazard. I think that the absolute rigid adherence to single storey schools is a fashion to a large degree. I cannot believe that there is any very great difficulty in having children of ten to thirteen years of age walking up one flight of stairs into a classroom. A great many people have done it and not been burnt up.

Mr. GEORGE: Fire hazard in these buildings is not very great.

The WITNESS: On March 12 Mr. Wright asked: "Has the department a standard agreement which they enter into with the local schoolboards for service personnel children who are attending local schools and is it uniform across the dominion?"

I have with me the standard agreements. Apart from minor modifications in British Columbia and a modification in the province of Quebec they are virtually standard. The modification in the province of Quebec is that under their educational statute only ratepayers may be school trustees and therefore in the province of Quebec it is not possible to appoint men on the station as the school trustees and as a result schools in the province of Quebec are in the private school category. They fit right into the Department of Education.

*By Mr. Adamson:*

Q. Are school trustees administered by non-military personnel?—A. It falls into the category of a private school administered by the military personnel. It cannot be a public school because the trustees of the schoolboard must be ratepayers and none of these men are ratepayers. Where school children are looked after in existing public schools within the municipality the technique is in an exchange of letter setting forth the details and there is a copy of the letters here.

Q. Is the curriculum of the private schools entirely in the hands of the military authorities?—A. No. The private school system in the province of Quebec ties into the public school system and the curriculum is the subject of advice from the Department of Education. There is not a great deal of difference in the curriculum, but in the point of the corporate structure there is a great difference between the two.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. I have a few questions on this statement which you have tabled in regard to Department of National Defence schools built under contract with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In the last column you have the heading "Cost—School Services, Landscaping, etc." What do you include in school services there?—A. Well, there would be water and sewer and the road, coming in from where the trunk services are to the school. There would be the grading, there would be the sodding or generally seeding, there would be hard topping of an area for the very small children as a play area, and generally things which you see within a school area in a large municipality.

Q. Does that work out according to any pattern which would enable you to say what is a fair or standard percentage of the cost of school services, landscaping, etc., on top of the cost of the school only?—A. About 10 per cent, sir. On March 12, Mr. Fulton asked another question about the cost of schools and I think that is answered by the tabulation which is now before you. I mentioned that the cost of the auditorium is \$90,000.

*By Mr. Fulton:*

Q. You have an item—second to the last item on the list—where you show the cost of the school only at \$61,370. The description of that item is that it is a steelbox six-classroom school. That is a prefabricated type of school, is it not?—A. Yes.