

Mr. FACTOR: I quite appreciate that, but what I wish to know is this: The government has not abandoned the plans and does not consider this as completing the entire scheme for the customs house?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Oh, no. There is no abandonment of the plan. As time goes on and circumstances warrant, I have no doubt that the building will be completed.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: The minister a few moments ago stated, quite correctly, that no part of the \$20,000,000 voted last fall had been spent by the Public Works department on public buildings, but what we want to ascertain is whether any part of that amount was used to construct public buildings which later on may be owned by the Public Works department.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): So far as I know, there has been no expenditure such as my hon. friend refers to.

Mr. SANDERSON: Will the minister endeavour to get that information and give it to the committee?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I think that information will be given to the house in another way through the regular channel, namely, by the minister who must report on the expenditures under the appropriation for unemployment relief. I would not like to undertake to go into another department to get that information.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: The minister must realize that the Minister of Labour has not a seat in this house.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am sure that all the information will come down. When it does I am pretty well assured that it will be complete in every detail, and I hope that it will be pleasing to the house.

Mr. SANDERSON: It was distinctly understood, I think, by hon. members in the emergency session held last fall—if you look up Hansard I think you will find it mentioned many times—that part of the \$20,000,000 would be spent for federal public buildings in different parts of the Dominion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am sorry I have not Hansard here, but my hon. friends I think are mistaken when they say, "no, no." Apparently the minister is quite willing to give any and all information that he can, and I do think it is a reasonable request that he should get that information and give it to the committee.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): All I can say is that the Minister of Public Works tried very hard to get a part of that \$20,000,000 to spend, and he did not succeed. As I recall the debate and the statement of the Minister of Finance at that time, some mention may have been made of public works, but the Public Works department received no money from that source. I think my hon. friend might very well await the statement of the Minister of Labour as to the expenditure in his department.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am not altogether satisfied with the answer of the minister. He says that he does not know of any such expenditures. Will he be good enough to find out definitely? If there have been no such expenditures, well and good.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am able to state definitely that no expenditure of any part of the \$20,000,000 has been made through the Public Works department.

Mr. SANDERSON: Not through the Public Works department—that was not my question. I would not expect it would be spent through the Public Works department, but I would expect it would be spent for public buildings which eventually would come under the control of the Public Works department or which are now under its control.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): What type of public building has my hon. friend in mind?

Mr. SANDERSON: The minister is more conversant with public buildings than I am. I mean any kind of federal public building—post office, custom house or any other.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can only assure my hon. friend that not a dollar of the twenty million has gone into post offices or any public buildings constructed under the authority of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. SANDERSON: I do not mean constructed under the authority of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is the only authority under which public buildings are constructed except such buildings as are constructed by the Department of National Defence and one or two other departments.

Mr. SANDERSON: Was there not a special provision in connection with the twenty million dollar appropriation for the relief of unemployment that some of it would be spent for the erection of public buildings?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No.

Mr. SANDERSON: Or public works?