

Mr. MacNICOL: Frankly, I cannot see where he gets those figures, because the figures given to me for the old building are 51½ feet wide by 89 feet, which would make the ground floor area about 4,590 feet, I believe, less the 720 feet, or net 3,870 feet, without basement.

Mr. EULER: These figures are given by the supervising architect. I think it is fair to assume that they are correct.

Mr. MacNICOL: If they are on the same basis they are incorrect. Should we add the store in front—

Mr. EULER: No, to that he adds the basement.

Mr. MacNICOL: The old building did not take in all the front of the premises, or all the basement.

Mr. EULER: There is no store spoken of here.

Mr. MacNICOL: No; the store is not in the former post office. I tried to make that clear, but the minister could not understand it.

Mr. EULER: I am afraid all I understand is the figures given here, and they do not seem to correspond with my hon. friend's remarks. They are given by the responsible officials of the department, and with all due regard to what my hon. friend says I am inclined to think they should be accurate. The actual result, if you sum it up, is that the department now has 8,671 square feet at seventy-eight cents a square foot, whereas for the previous premises they paid ninety-five cents a square foot for 5,655 square feet, or they saved seventeen cents a square foot. And they needed more space.

Mr. MacNICOL: The resident architect's statement is that the ground floor area of the former building was 3,775 feet?

Mr. EULER: That is what he says.

Mr. MacNICOL: Admitting that is correct, then add the store in the front of the building—

Mr. EULER: Why add that?

Mr. MacNICOL: Because the owner offered it to the present government just as he did to the former government. The former government said they did not require it.

Mr. EULER: At the same price, ninety-five cents?

Mr. MacNICOL: At the same price as his rent was.

Mr. EULER: But the cost of the new premises was only seventy-eight cents a foot.

Mr. MacNICOL: Can I make the minister understand this, that the frontage of the building on St. Clair avenue, as I remember it and according to the figures given to me, is 51½ feet? But off that there is a store eighteen feet wide. The rear of the building, where the Post Office Department had the whole width, is 51½ feet wide. The owner of the premises offered to the present government, as he did to the former government, that store in front eighteen feet wide. That is 720 square feet, and adding that to the 3,775 feet which Mr. Winter says was the area of the floor space of the former building would make 4,495 feet. The basement is approximately, say half the size, making another 2,245 feet.

Mr. EULER: If those figures are accurate, at the price of ninety-five cents the amount to be paid would be considerably more than they are paying for the present premises. It is just a matter of arithmetic; if you divide the total number of square feet into the rental, it figures out at ninety-five cents under the old lease. Under the present lease it is seventy-eight cents.

Mr. MacNICOL: If Mr. Winter's figures are correct, that the floor space of the former building was 3,775 feet—I will accept those figures as correct although I doubt they are—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacNICOL: As a matter of fact I do not think the old building was that large. His figures may be just as correct as the statement that the new post office is one block east, whereas it is more than two blocks east and on the opposite side of the street.

Mr. EULER: We admit the opposite side of the street.

Mr. MacNICOL: If his statement is correct, that the former floor space was 3,775 feet, then adding to that the store, 720 feet, would make the ground floor space that the government could have had at the same rental as they were formerly paying, I am told—

Mr. EULER: Does my hon. friend mean that they were going to make a present of the additional space?