

manent structure. That has been done, the new portion having just been completed. The whole has been made into one building.

If I remember correctly the Aylmer departments were purchased at the time the Department of National Defence for Naval Services was formed. It is just opposite the Woods building. It was considered desirable to purchase the building for purposes of national defence—any one of the departments—as was the case with the Bate building. That was the income tax building; it stands directly alongside. This means that the crown owns all the property on both sides of Slater street from Elgin street to the park.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Are those buildings included in the Ottawa beautification scheme?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not know whether my hon. friend is being sarcastic when he asks that question.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Not at all.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is asking whether these buildings would be included in the scheme connected with the widening of the street?

Mr. GLADSTONE: There has been some talk about their demolition.

Mr. RALSTON: There is no such plan yet. I must say that I do not see any possibility of the demolition of buildings of that kind for a great many years after the war. I believe we have to set our faces against that sort of thing for a while. We will have to do without some beautification measures for a little while. Possibly that would have taken place if the war had not come along, necessitating other expenditures.

The hon. member asked if there was anyone in Ottawa or in the department who canvassed the situation in the city as to the availability of accommodation.

Mr. BENICE: The necessity for saving materials.

Mr. RALSTON: With all due respect to real estate men in Ottawa, I think the hon. member would find in Colonel Gibson's office as complete a catalogue of every bit of space, prospective, potential or present, as could be found anywhere. Colonel Gibson and his associates have toured this city from end to end, time and time again, almost at the point of the bayonet, in the hands of officers who needed space and were unable to get it. Not long ago we had a situation where personnel, instead of having something like 75 or

80 feet of space, which is considered the average amount required, had only 45 or 50. I know Colonel Gibson has looked in every direction to find space which could be used without having to construct new buildings. I am sure no one was more regretful than we were in the Department of National Defence when we had to accede to the suggestions from the navy and the air to allow buildings to be erected, and when later we had to use the remainder of the space for a building for the Department of National Defence (Army). But it was simply impossible to find accommodation of the kind required by the services.

I can say that the building on Cartier square, which is being erected by the army, will be practically filled by the quartermaster-general, the master-general of the ordnance and part of the treasury. The tremendous strain under which these departments have been working will be realized when I say that the master-general of the ordnance has been accommodated in eighteen or nineteen different buildings in Ottawa. I believe that number is correct. Those buildings will be vacated by M.G.O. staffs when the move is made into the new one. But it was simply impossible to carry on properly with a staff scattered throughout the city. As a matter of fact, if I may make a personal reference, I would say that one of my own offices was used by draftsmen of the engineers' branch of the quartermaster-general. We had special lights installed in order that they might prepare the plans for these different buildings. The fact is that we have had a very difficult time, from the point of view of space.

Mr. BENICE: What possibility is there of some of this work being done in other centres, away from Ottawa? Would it be feasible to have some branches in other cities, where more accommodation is available, rather than have them all in Ottawa? Then, with respect to sales: Were sales effected directed between the Department of National Defence and the owner, without the intervention of a real estate agent?

Mr. RALSTON: Absolutely.

Mr. BENICE: I should like an answer to the other question.

Mr. RALSTON: That is really a matter for my colleague the Minister of Public Works, rather than for me.

Mr. BENICE: It is a matter of policy with respect to the Department of National Defence, to a certain extent.

Mr. RALSTON: I may say to my hon. friend that it is always a case of being willing to sacrifice your wife's relations. Each depart-