

may say that the representations made have been carefully noted in connection with the request at present under consideration by the department for a public building at this place.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. B. Hunter,
Deputy Minister.

I will quote a paragraph from the letter of the director of the board of health. I translate:

I entirely approve of the report, and I strongly recommend that the actual conditions should be remedied with the shortest possible delay.

I shall not take the time of the committee to read the whole report, but I will give the conclusions of the report made by Dr. B. Blaudet, medical officer at Riviere du Loup, and dated April 10, 1930:

Mr. Director,—

According to the attached plans and the figures given in this report, it is easy to see that the present post office in the town of Trois Pistoles is not at all satisfactory, and that the lodging of the postmaster should be more sanitary.

As for the changes to be made, I believe it is a matter that should be decided by the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa.

The rental for the post office was \$360, as the minister may easily verify from his own files. The rental stood at that figure for several years until the new building was constructed.

On September 11, 1929, Mr. T. W. Fuller, chief architect, sent a report to Mr. Arthur Pouliot, Esq., clerk of works, at the custom house, Quebec. The report is headed "Re Post Office accommodation, Trois-Pistoles, P.Q.," and goes on to state that a copy of a resolution dated March 4, 1929, had been received from the secretary-treasurer of the municipal council of the town of Trois-Pistoles, stating that the council authorities—

are prepared to enlarge the town hall building and requesting that the department enter into a new ten-year lease for space for postal purposes at \$800 per annum. (2) Letter of acknowledgment, dated April 3, 1929, requesting a plan showing the proposed enlargement and improvements estimated to cost \$4,000 on which the increased rental would be based. (3) Letter, dated September 4, 1929, from the secretary-treasurer of the town of Trois-Pistoles, enclosing plans and specifications of the proposed changes.

I have only this to say that the town of Trois-Pistoles was at that time ready to make those improvement if the rent was increased from \$360 to \$800. According to information the hon. gentleman has given me I learn that the rent at the present time is a thousand dollars per annum. Am I right?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: First of all, as I have said the council was ready to improve that building for a rental of \$800 per year. Now they have received a thousand dollars. I wonder why this year more money is asked than was asked in 1929, which is not so long ago. The town of Trois-Pistoles has been asking for money from the unemployment relief fund to enlarge the city hall so as to provide better postal accommodation. They are allowed to spend \$6,000. Three thousand of that is paid by the provincial and federal governments and three thousand by the city. The sum is a little greater than it was in 1929. However, according to some information I received on January 16, 1931, from the Minister of Labour at Quebec, I learn that the \$6,000 included some other works besides the enlargement of the city hall for post office purposes. The letter of the hon. gentleman is as follows—translating from French into English.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, C.R., M.P.,
Rivière-du-Loup,
Témiscouata.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of January 15th inst. You will find underneath the information asked for with regard to the grant to the town of Trois-Pistoles from the unemployment relief fund. Six thousand dollars at 50 per cent for the enlargement of the city hall, for central sewer route, and the opening up of a new street.

It is mentioned that the above mentioned works will be executed only for the amount granted. I understand that they will do only part of those works. With best regards.

J. N. Francoeur,
Minister.

That grant included other items. In view of the fact that a report has been given by the board of health to the effect that the building was unhealthy, unsanitary and in very bad condition, did the minister stipulate in the deed that the building should be put in proper condition before any increased rental payment would be made to the town? What are the reasons the rent had been so greatly increased? The point is, that those works were first estimated at \$4,000. The work which was to be done there was arranged on a very generous scale. The interest at 5 per cent on \$4,000 is \$200. The increase in the rent is \$640. On the amount that is being spent by the town an interest of over 15 per cent would be required. I wonder if the people who have made a request in that direction have convinced the minister that it would be fair to pay such a rate of interest to the town without first asking town officials to reduce the taxes. The people of Trois-Pistoles will receive no advantage whatever. The money will be spent on a very ugly and dirty build-