

save a lot of overhead by having them all in the one place. The suggestion of the hon. member from New Westminster looks to me a very good one. I think it is the common sense thing to do.

Mr. GARLAND (Carleton): Is this to replace the greenhouse immediately west of the parliament buildings?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is to replace the one in Major Hill park.

Mr. GARLAND (Carleton): If we place a few more hotels and greenhouses in Major Hill park there will be little of the park left.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What is the estimated cost of upkeep?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is difficult to say. In all probability the upkeep of this greenhouse will not be greater than that of the present structure, and certainly the cost of maintenance will not be exceeded.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What is the cost of upkeep of the present greenhouse?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is not kept separate from the cost for repairs of the other government buildings in the city.

Mr. McQUARRIE: How many men are employed in connection with the greenhouse?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The men who look after the greenhouses are on the staff of the superintendent of all the government buildings in this city.

Mr. CHAPLIN: What is the area of this particular greenhouse?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I have not the size.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Surely there are plans for an expenditure of \$27,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The plans are not yet out.

Mr. CHAPLIN: When the minister submits a vote of \$27,000 for a greenhouse he ought to be able to tell the committee its dimensions. That appears to me to be a reasonable question.

Mr. ELLIOTT: We are judging the cost by the cost of other greenhouses constructed by the department at the experimental farm and at Rideau Hall.

Mr. CHAPLIN: How many other greenhouses are there in separate locations like this; how long are they expected to last; what shape are they in? It seems to me that this is an opportunity for co-ordination. A small greenhouse cannot be run profitably.

[Mr. Chaplin.]

The major cost of this greenhouse will be the fuel necessary to heat it and the wages of special men to run it, because unskilled men around the building cannot run this or any other greenhouse. I have one of my own and I know what I am talking about. It seems to me foolish for the minister to ask for a vote of \$27,000 for a greenhouse of which he cannot tell us the size. I think with his usual courtesy he will allow this item to stand until he had secured the necessary information.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Perhaps my hon. friend was not present when I read the statement as to the necessity of replacing the old greenhouse.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Yes. That was the reason for my questions.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I would not have thought so. My hon. friend of course realizes that the cost of heating will not be more than for the old greenhouse.

Mr. CHAPLIN: That is admitted.

Mr. ELLIOTT: This is to replace the worn-out structure.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I agree with the minister that it will cost no more to run this greenhouse where he proposes to put it than it did to run the old one last year. But I want an improvement. If he is going to build a new greenhouse let him put it where it can be run with the surplus heat generated for the other greenhouse. That is the point the minister misses.

Mr. SPENCE: When this vote was up last session I opposed it vigorously. The minister was then asked as to the size of the proposed structure, and he said it would be about 25 by 60 feet. A greenhouse of this size should not cost \$27,000. I know something about the cost of construction, for unfortunately I have a greenhouse myself. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin) has made a good suggestion, that these units should be co-ordinated. The old greenhouse should be remodelled and placed in a more convenient location so that delicate plants could be distributed from it without too much cost. There is no need of a greenhouse in Major Hill park. It is a bleak place and it will always be difficult to maintain the temperature of the greenhouse at the right point. As the minister has not the plans and cannot give the committee any information, I move:

That this item be reduced by \$10,000, and that the old greenhouse be remodelled and used until the minister makes up his mind what he will do with it.