

of the East Block and re-arrangement of the offices on the top floor, including a new elevator at the stair-well entrance to the south wing. The estimated cost of the new fireproof roof, etc., is as follows:

Secretary of State Department, new roof and office layout....	\$ 69,000.00
Elevator.....	6,000.00
Remainder of roof .....	163,000.00
Total .....	\$238,000.00

Deduct:—

Revote applied for in Supple- mentary Estimates, 1917-18..	\$125,000.00
Additional amount required..	113,000.00

Appropriation for 1916-17—addi- tion.....	\$ 17,000.00
Appropriation for 1916-17—new fireproof roof, etc.....	240,000.00
Total.....	\$257,000.00

Deduct:—

Expenditure re pay lists, materials, etc., for alterations to drainage, plumbing, renewing galvanized roof over boiler room, etc. ....	\$ 11,025.00
Amount lapsed 1st April, 1917.....	120,975.00
	\$132,000.00
Revote required for use in 1917-18 .....	\$125,000.00

The fireproofing and alterations to part of the southeast corner of the top floor, including a new elevator at the stair-well entrance to south wing, were recommended by the Postmaster General (Mr. Blondin).

Mr. MURPHY: Have tenders been called and has the work been started?

Mr. REID: No, it is not proceeding, and no tenders have yet been called for.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think this item might well be allowed to stand over. The only recommendation for it is the recommendation of the Postmaster General, and he is not now an occupant of the East Block. The Finance Department does not recommend it; the Minister of Justice has not applied for it; the Privy Council have not applied for it. There are a great many officials there, and it seems extraordinary that the work should be done now on the recommendation of the Postmaster General. It is not urgently required, and I do not think the item should pass.

Mr. REID: It is a fact that the work was not proceeded with last year, and it may not be proceeded with this year.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think it would be better to strike it out.

Mr. REID: I do not feel it would be well to do so. It will be necessary to go ahead with this work some time. The East Block is really a fire-trap. Within the past two or three weeks there was an alarm of fire there. If any accident happened, we would not have the slightest hope of saving the place. It is absolutely necessary to do this work, as soon as we can reach it, and I do not think there should be any objection to passing the item.

Mr. PUGSLEY: If anything happens the Government would not hesitate for a single moment to obtain a Governor General's warrant. This Government never hesitates to do that on the slightest provocation. Does it not seem absurd that this work, which is not urgently required, should be asked for at this time, when the Minister of Finance really looks weary as a result of the tremendous burdens imposed upon him in looking around for money? Is it fair to throw further burdens upon him? Nothing has been done in connection with this work for a couple of years, and latterly we have gone to very large expense in the East Block, fitting up splendid vaults and making great improvements for the Finance Department. The offices of my hon. and gallant friend (Mr. Blondin) are not in the East Block; they are in the Langevin Block. The other ministers do not seem to require an additional elevator. Two elevators are apparently sufficient for them. As was stated to-day so forcibly by my hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. Macdonald), now is the time when even in small matters the Government should show some economy.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Economy in everything except in connection with dredging in Courtenay bay.

Mr. PUGSLEY: We do not get very far with the dredging.

Mr. REID: I would not like to take the responsibility of striking out this item. The money is being voted to make the building fire-proof. This question was brought up during the time my hon. friend from Russell (Mr. Murphy) was Secretary of State.

Mr. MURPHY: That is so.

Mr. GERMAN: Will that amount of money be sufficient to make the building fireproof? My opinion is it will not cover more than one-quarter of the cost.

Mr. REID: Those are the figures supplied by the architects, and I have full confidence in them.