

Supply—Post Office

an observational study of the situation myself, and I must agree with the township council, with the reeve and his council, the staff of the post office and the drivers of the buses and vehicles concerned that they do need more land. Therefore I would remind the minister that we need more land in connection with this new post office so as to give us complete facilities in this growing village—because it is now growing appreciably. There is a vacant portion of land available at the rear which can be purchased at reasonable cost, I dare say at the same rate per square foot as the land purchased last autumn to erect the building now occupied by the department.

We are hearing quite a bit these days about federal buildings, and we have been hearing about them for some time since the 1950's, or previously. Quite often these new buildings replace buildings which are just as good and structurally sound in their old age as are the new buildings. In the town of Napanee, where I live, we have a case in point. Last summer we were informed of the desire of this present administration to build a so-called federal building in the town of Napanee. They claimed that the facilities in the old post office were just about reaching the stage where they were inadequate for the community, and so some efforts were made to ascertain the availability of sites and other matters pertaining to the relocation of buildings for the building of a new federal building. This would also house the unemployment insurance commission office and other facilities which ever since their conception have been housed in rented quarters.

Some protest was made vocally to the effect that many of the local people did not wish to abandon the old post office. The post office in Napanee was built around 1890. It was built of a red sandstone. The walls of the building are in as good a condition as the walls of this centre block of the parliament buildings or of any of the parliament buildings at the present time. The building occupies a central location just off the market square and complements the market square arrangement. It is one of our landmarks and has a venerable clock tower. The building itself with its sandstone walls is of a sturdy yet pleasing classic design.

Not being an architect, I cannot tell the committee what design it is but it is very pleasing and every year the building stands it seems to be more appreciated by the public. In fact, in the post card racks of the local stores the post card showing the

[Mr. Alkenbrack.]

Napanee post office is always one of those available to tourists along with others depicting older and historic public buildings in the community. I took it upon myself to get out a questionnaire which I circulated.

The Chairman: Order. Shall I call it five o'clock?

Mr. MacNaught: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the present speaker is probably the last one on these estimates, and if Your Honour would not look at the clock for a few minutes I think that would meet with the wishes of all hon. members.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Skoreyko: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but I had intended to speak for a very few minutes. The minister left the impression that the present speaker was the last speaker for the Conservative party but that is wrong.

Mr. MacNaught: One more.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.

The Chairman: Perhaps the committee would suggest that I report progress so that we could suspend the five o'clock rule and return to committee.

Mr. MacNaught: It is not the intention to suspend the hour but probably we could sit for another 15 minutes in committee to see if we could get these estimates passed.

The Chairman: I suggest to the committee that we should report progress and return to committee for a few minutes. I believe this is the only way it can be done if we follow the rules properly.

Progress reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the desire of the house that we return to committee of supply for a few moments and that we suspend the five o'clock rule for a certain time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

1. Postal services including Canada's share of the upkeep of the international bureaux at Berne and Montevideo, \$208,861,000.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had just informed the committee that I circulated the following questionnaire to the citizens of Napanee: