

House are clearly audible to the members, the Speaker, the press, and a good proportion of the public. Interjected remarks, quick questions and answers, and the like, which seem to be not infrequent in the House procedure, are sometimes lost, but they could not be amplified by any practical arrangement of microphones. Each member would have to have one on his own desk and would have to keep it disconnected when rustling papers or making other noises, and turn it on before making remarks.

Mr. STEVENS: That is worth \$4,000 in itself.

Mr. RENNIE: Would it not be possible to get someone residing in Canada to make a report of this kind, instead of going to the United States to get someone to tell us what we ought to do?

Mr. ROBB: The chief engineer of the Johns-Manville Company, a Canadian, was associated with this gentleman.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Did that report cost \$4,000?

Mr. ROBB: No. We put that amount in, expecting to do something with it, but it is questionable whether it will be needed.

Mr. CLARK: How much did this report cost?

Mr. ROBB: We paid just the travelling expenses of this expert and—

Mr. CLARK: No fee?

Mr. ROBB: A fee of about \$100.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers—Quebec harbour	
—Champlain dock—further amount required.	\$ 84,400
Port Arthur and Fort William—harbour improvements—further amount required.	35,000
Sorel—harbour improvements.	100,000

Mr. STEVENS: What are the needs calling for these trivial amounts to be put in the supplementaries?

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Chairman, is the Champlain dock under the control of the harbour board?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Oh no; the Department of Public Works.

Item agreed to.

Public Buildings, Nova Scotia—Halifax—H.M. gun wharf—clothing store—revote, \$8,000.	\$ 15,000
Halifax—repairs to buildings and wharfs at R.C.N. barracks and H.M.C. dockyard—revote, \$3,700.	25,340
Mahone Bay—public building.	10,000

Mr. ERNST: Has any money been expended on Mahone Bay to date? If not will any portion of this vote be expended before March 31?

Mr. ROBB: Nothing has been spent there yet.

Mr. ERNST: Will anything be spent before March 31?

Mr. ROBB: It is not likely.

Mr. ERNST: Is the minister able to give any assurance that the item will be reinstated in the main estimates for 1927-28?

Mr. ROBB: I would not care to commit myself as to that.

Mr. ERNST: I ask because this is something like the Guysborough railway—it has been promised to the people of Mahone Bay for a good many years.

Item agreed to.

Prince Edward Island—Kensington—public building, \$12,000.

Mr. HANSON: Has this money been spent?

Mr. ROBB: No. That is another new building.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): For what purpose?

Mr. ROBB: A post office.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): What is the size of the place?

Mr. ROBB: The population in 1921 was 556, and it was the same in 1926. Kensington is 39 miles from Charlottetown and 9 miles from Summerside. It contains three hotels, four churches, one bank, one butter and cheese factory and one sash and door factory. Of course the post office serves a large surrounding country.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): What is the revenue from this office?

Mr. ROBB: About \$3,000.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): What are the reasons why Kensington with a population of 500 and a postal revenue of about \$3,000 should have \$12,000 expended for a post office, when other places—for instance, Sydenham in the county of Frontenac—have waited a long time in order to get cold justice, although they have much larger populations and greater postal revenues? What particular constituency is Kensington in, and just what peculiar pull has the member got? I should like to get a little information on this in order that by copying the same sort of manoeuvre