

have to look into the matter thoroughly. In the meantime I would like the item to stand.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Are the figures based upon the idea of utilizing stone from Part-ridge island?

Mr. REID: The parties tendering were free to take the stone from wherever they wished.

Ontario—Stayner—public building, \$10,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I believe the minister was going to consider the advisability of striking out this item. I think he should be guided by the fact that when the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) was asking for the passage of the Bill relating to taxation, and indeed in bringing forward subsequent measures, he gave his assurance to the House that no new work would be undertaken. I think that pledge should be lived up to. A great many items have been struck out on that ground.

Mr. REID: I agree that that was the understanding, and therefore I am not sure that we will go on with the work.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think it would be better if the item were struck out.

Mr. REID: Perhaps it would be as well to leave it in, and we will not proceed with it if it is new work.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It must be new work. Because the amount is required to buy the land.

Mr. REID: If that be so, I suppose we will have to strike it out.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The fact of it being there is evidently a printer's error.

Mr. CURRIE: That is a very worthy building, and it happens to be in a good Liberal town.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The building is only imaginary as yet.

Mr. CURRIE: Of course, if my friends on the opposite side of the House want the item struck out, it cannot be helped.

Mr. McKENZIE: What county is Stayner in?

Mr. CURRIE: It is the town of Stayner, which has done a lot for the war, and has never had a cent spent on it in its whole history. I think it is only right that the town should be recognized.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Let it wait until we have a union government.

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

Mr. CURRIE: If we have a union government, of course the work will go on.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Are they all Liberals there?

Mr. CURRIE: As a matter of fact there is no truce now, as there was when the statement was made that no new building would be proceeded with. When that statement was made there was a political truce between the parties, but the situation is changed now. The Opposition has forced the Government to go to the country, and I do not see why it is absolutely necessary that the arrangement made then should be carried out. During the last two days I have heard nothing but abuse of the Government. Not a single item in the supplementary estimates passed without some blame being imputed to the Government. It was claimed the items were for a war-time election. If I had been the Minister of Public Works, I would have given a war-time supplementary estimate to hon. gentlemen opposite, and give them some excuse for kicking.

Mr. CARVELL: We think you would.

Mr. CURRIE: So did the hon. gentleman and there is no better politician or party man in this House than himself. As far as this public building in Stayner is concerned, if hon. gentlemen opposite are opposed to it, if they want it struck out and if there is any agreement to strike out, we will strike it out and let them take the blame.

St. John harbour—extension of and repairs to Negro Point breakwater, \$250,000.

Mr. REID: This is the only item of the Public Works Department left. I cannot add anything to what I said except that the work will cost probably between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 before it is completed. This is asked for the commencement of the work and so much will be spent per annum. I would suggest letting the item go through, and of course we would have to consider going on with the work in view of the statements which have been made by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) and the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell). If the committee desire further information I will let the item stand.

Mr. CURRIE: If there is anything in the argument that no new work should be undertaken during war time, it is unfair to strike out the item of \$10,000 for Stayner and then ask to have a quarter of a million dollar item left in as hon. gentlemen opposite are asking.