

Would the people know sufficient about the difference between this and any other kind of pavement to induce them to ask for this particular kind of pavement? Is it the attractive appearance of this kind of pavement because this is about the last pavement in the world that one would choose because of its appearance? They had not any experience as to its durability because it was only laid last fall and therefore, they could not know anything about it. Some interested party went around and secured the signature of every resident of the street, if the statement of the hon. minister that all the residents wanted this pavement is a fact and I assume it is. That interested party was undoubtedly connected with the only firm that could possibly do the work. The next excuse behind which the hon. minister seeks to shelter himself is a very good one, it is an admirable one; this was done by my predecessor. It is a first-class thing to put anything on a dead man.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. HYMAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) must know that it would be beneath me to make any reference of that kind to a departed friend. I think a matter of that kind might be left alone. I simply mentioned it as an incident without any desire to shirk any responsibility.

Mr. SPROULE. If I am misrepresenting the hon. gentleman he will correct me. I took down his words and I know that he made use of those words.

Mr. HYMAN. I am not objecting to the words.

Mr. SPROULE. Then why does the hon. gentleman object?

Mr. HYMAN. I am objecting to the reference he has made and to the manner in which he used the words.

Mr. SPROULE. I said and I repeat it—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. I repeat, notwithstanding the observations of hon. gentlemen opposite, who have not the courtesy to listen to me, that the hon. gentleman sheltered himself behind his predecessor. Where is he to-day? A dead man. Was this done by his predecessor? Was his predecessor down here last fall when this contract was let? Was he here last session when we had the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hyman) doing duty as Minister of Public Works through the whole session nearly? How could it be let by his predecessor? If I remember correctly his predecessor was away for his health.

Mr. HYMAN. I have made the statement before that I had nothing to do with the Department of Public Works at that time, and I think my statement should be accepted.

Mr. SPROULE.

Mr. SPROULE. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that he had nothing to do with the Department of Public Works?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Yes.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. SPROULE. I cannot hear what the hon. gentleman says at all. Am I correct in understanding that the hon. acting minister says that this was done before he had anything to do with the Public Works Department?

Mr. HYMAN. Yes, the hon. gentleman is correct in saying that. I simply made the remark without any desire to escape from anything in regard to the matter at all.

Mr. SPROULE. What remark?

Mr. HYMAN. The remark that the contract was let and the arrangements were made, whatever they were, before I was Acting Minister of Public Works.

Mr. SPROULE. The question was asked the hon. minister: When was this let?—by my hon. friend from Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Hughes) and in answer he said: Last fall. This work was done last fall, the hon. minister was Acting Minister of Public Works during last session because we complained very much that we had only the acting minister to deal with who would not be the responsible party who was spending this money and we desired that we should have a responsible minister who was spending the money. The hon. acting minister, I say again, sheltered himself behind that because he was acting minister during last session when we had him answering the questions that were asked in regard to the proposed expenditure for the coming year in connection with public works. Who was acting minister last fall? Would the hon. minister be good enough to tell me that?

Mr. HYMAN. I understand that the late minister was in charge of the department at the time the arrangements were made for the laying of this pavement.

Mr. SPROULE. When he was away?

Mr. HYMAN. The minister himself was in charge of the department at the time the arrangements were made for laying this pavement and they were made by him.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. minister be good enough to bring down the report of council, because, there is either another chapter of accidents in connection with this work, or there is something wrong. Every hon. member knows that the late minister was not here at the time the contract was let. I am taking the hon. acting minister's own words as to the time the contract was let. If I am wrong I was led astray by the statement of the hon. acting minister himself, because he says it was let last fall. I say it is a matter of accurate knowledge