

Mr. HYMAN. Even so, we see that, in the first place, the opponents of the company were entirely astray from the facts as to the cost of the pavement. As to the extension of the pavement to Wellington street and the tenders which were advertised for the pavement on that street I may say that I gave instructions that the chief architect of the department was to consult with the city with regard to the specifications. The city of Ottawa have a number of other streets communicating with Wellington street. The chief architect of the department consulted with the city engineer of Ottawa and accepted the exact specification made by that officer on which to base a call for tender. The hon. member (Mr. Sam. Hughes) has made some remarks in regard to the value of the pavement. I may say, that with one exception every resident on Wellington street has petitioned the government to lay this kind of pavement.

Mr. SPROULE. What kind?

Mr. HYMAN. The same as that in front of the parliament buildings. All have had an opportunity to examine the pavement in front of these buildings and, with this knowledge they have petitioned for its extension to Wellington street. The price, \$2.25 per square yard, is somewhat less than the price paid by the city of Ottawa for exactly the same pavement. As I have said, every resident on Wellington street—with the exception of one, who, I believe, was absent—petitioned for this pavement, and it is the only pavement that has been petitioned for.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What has the petition of the residents on the street to do with the case?

Mr. HYMAN. As the residents on the street do not pay for the pavement in one sense, it has nothing to do with it. The government is paying for the pavement. But the hon. member for Victoria and Halliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes) stated that the pavement was not a good one. But the fact that all the residents on the street, not being obliged to pay, and being free to petition for any pavement they like, petitioned for this pavement with practical unanimity and petitioned for no other, is a pretty good indication that that pavement must have merit. It is quite true that it is to all intents and purposes a free gift by the government at least the government have undertaken to care for that street, but it was quite in accordance with their privilege to have petitioned for any other kind of pavement instead of this kind. The pavement has been put down in London and in Toronto and it is being put down in Ottawa. I can say that the exact pavement which has been put down in front of the parliament buildings is now being put down or will shortly be put down by the city of Ottawa under exactly the same specifications which were copied in their entirety by my in-

Mr. SAM HUGHES.

structions by the chief architect of Public Works. Certain strictures have been made as to the non-acceptance of the tenders that were advertised for last year and the reasons given are entirely apart from the facts of the case. Tenders were called for last year and would possibly have been accepted, but the city of Ottawa desired to lay a water pipe and the department naturally did not want to lay the pavement and have it torn up for the purpose of laying this water pipe. We endeavoured to get the city to immediately lay the water pipe; I had a conference, I think with the chairman of the water commissioners, and was informed by him that it was an impossibility for the city to complete the water pipe in time for the pavement to be laid before the frost came. For that reason and for that reason alone no tenders were accepted for the pavement last year, but the amount was asked for in the next estimate and the specifications of the city of Ottawa were advertised for. They were adopted in their entirety by the department and I think that in every possible way the public have been protected by the action we have taken in connection with this pavement.

Mr. BENNETT. Is the area in front of the buildings similar work to that which is on Sparks street, and other streets in this city? Has this been trowelled over by hand or is it intended to do so?

Mr. HYMAN. I am not entirely familiar of course with the technical work of paving. I understand that the pavement here has been completed in accordance with the contract and in accordance with the character of the work which the city of Ottawa have tendered for. It was under the same specifications and in the same way.

Mr. INGRAM. Who circulated the petition on Wellington street?

Mr. HYMAN. I have no knowledge of that; the petition simply came to me, it was handed to me by one of my officers. Every one knows how these petitions are circulated. I have no doubt it was circulated by some one interested in the pavement.

Mr. LALOR. My experience in Haldimand is that these petitions are usually circulated by some one interested in the contract.

Mr. BENNETT. According to the information before the House it would appear that a contract of about \$10,000 was undertaken by the department of Public Works without tenders being called for. I think there is a dispute as to that after all the facts given by the minister. It may not have been an enormous amount, but the people of this country will expect that when a trifling mail contract involving \$150 to \$175 a year has to be advertised from Dan to Beersheba, when it