

Mr. REID: Even during the last regime the port was not discriminated against because it happened to be represented by a member in opposition to the then government, as a matter of fact the appropriation was increased. I should like to see that policy continued. What is the reason for making such a great reduction in the appropriation?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The appropriation for any locality, I may tell my hon. friend, is not reduced because of the character or political complexion of its representation in this house, and it never will be.

Mr. REID: I am very glad to hear that.

Mr. POWER: Put up that declaration in every post office.

Mr. HANBURY: Does the minister contemplate any increased accommodation at the Vancouver post office? He is probably aware that that post office is used as the centre from which all the mail going north and to many of the interior parts of the province is transferred. The present accommodation is not sufficient. I understand that recommendations have been made to the department for the past two or three years that further accommodation is necessary. Further, I understand that these recommendations have been endorsed by the minister's departmental officers. I repeat, this increased accommodation is argently required, and I should like to know if the minister contemplates taking the necessary steps to provide it in the very near future.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): In reply to the hon. member for Burrard I may say that I am informed that the matter has been receiving consideration for the last eight or ten years. Undoubtedly increased accommodation is necessary. I understand that it would cost approximately \$350,000 to acquire a site and about \$1,000,000 to erect a building—a heavy expenditure. The matter is receiving consideration, and as soon as circumstances warrant action will be taken.

Mr. HANBURY: I am more or less familiar with the figures mentioned by the minister, but I would point out to him that the rentals now being paid for the accommodation of the various Dominion government services in the city represent interest on a capital investment that would amply take care of all these requirements. I think the minister will find that an increase in the public buildings in Vancouver would be justified as a good investment from the standpoint of the government.

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Again I wish to point out that these expenditures are not made from capital as such, but from revenue.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): May I suggest to the minister that it might entail less cost to the Dominion government to transfer some of the many federal offices we hear of in Vancouver up into the interior of the province, where I think you would get the site a good deal cheaper and the buildings would be constructed for a good deal less than the figures mentioned by the minister, for Vancouver. I offer this suggestion for his consideration.

Mr. HANBURY: I am sure my hon. friend's constituents will welcome his suggestion, but I doubt whether it would be welcomed in other parts of British Columbia. People from all over the world, from British Columbia in particular and especially from that portion of the interior of British Columbia represented by my hon. friend, like an excuse to come to Vancouver, even if it is only to see one of the government officials.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): I might also say that we welcome the people of Vancouver in the central part of British Columbia. It will not hurt the health of my hon. friend a bit to come into that part of the province and look at it once in a while.

Mr. HANBURY: When we go into that part of the province its beauties are so great that we do not like to have our minds distracted by business.

Item agreed to.

Vancouver postal station "D"—improvements, \$2,000.

Mr. HANBURY: I would like the minister to explain this item.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This station is in my hon. friend's constituency, I believe, and this amount is to provide for the installation of a new screen in postal station D for the purpose of providing improved postal facilities. The estimated cost is \$1,800, with \$200 for contingencies.

Item agreed to.

Vancouver public building—to meet one year's interest at five per cent on mortgage of \$400,000, \$20,000.

Mr. HANBURY: Before we leave this resolution I should like the minister to give the details of the appropriations which were not required for the last year.