

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I never anticipated, Mr. Chairman, that \$12,000 would complete this building, and I do not think that was the intention of the former administration. We did estimate that it would probably cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000; that was what I believe was anticipated. Did the specifications that were sent out specify any particular amount which was to be expended? Was there any limit imposed?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No; specifications never give any information as to the amount of the government's estimate or what we expect the building will cost.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): What was the government's estimate?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am sorry but I have not that information.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I do not want to repeat what has been said with regard to conditions generally, but the minister did say that if he could anticipate where the greatest relief would be needed next year with regard to the unemployment situation he would know better how to act. I can assure him that he will be perfectly safe in placing this \$12,000 back in the estimates this year, because that was what we anticipated would be spent last year, and we thought the additional amount required would be voted this year. So far as the unemployment situation is concerned, I think the minister will be perfectly safe in placing \$12,000 in the supplementary estimates to proceed with this building, since the site has been procured. The site was purchased at a very reasonable figure, I am sure; I believe it only cost about \$200, if I am not mistaken, which cannot be called extravagant. The people out there are very anxious for the building; there is need of it, and I would ask the minister to consider placing this amount back in the estimates for this year in order that this \$12,000 may be expended and the building started this year, which would relieve the unemployment situation in that district.

Mr. McINTOSH: The Minister of Public Works made a statement in connection with the new immigration hall at North Battleford. I am very glad he made that statement. As I watched him when he was making it I felt that he was very anxious to give the house that information, and I am very glad the house and the country have received these details.

I might say, Mr. Chairman, that there was a new immigration hall built in North Battleford last year. North Battleford is one of the keys to the north country; Prince Albert is

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

another and Edmonton is still another. There was a new immigration hall built at Edmonton which cost, I believe, about \$75,000, while the hall at North Battleford cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The immigration hall at Prince Albert was completed the year before, and cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000. What do these expenditures mean? These immigration halls were undertaken largely because of the vision Canada had a few years ago with regard to a greater population. The war had built up a vast national debt, and the feeling had spread throughout the Dominion that we should have a greater population to bear that debt. Consequently not only the Conservative party but the Liberal party of the day felt that immigration was necessary. I am sure my hon. friend will remember the vision of immigration into this country given the house and the country a few years ago by the organizer for his own party, Mr. McRae. His proposition was that each year for ten years we should spend \$30,000,000 on immigration, giving a total expenditure of \$300,000,000. Can anyone wonder that when the party then in opposition, led by such men as the minister and the organizer of his party, went across Canada advocating greater immigration this vision was accepted and anticipated by these public buildings to accommodate those who were to come to this country?

I might say that personally I think the construction of that building in North Battleford was in order and I believe that every official of the Department of Public Works who knows anything about North Battleford and that north country will admit that fact. With regard to the old building I say to the minister that it was a disgrace to Canada to bring any mother or family from any part of the world for the purpose of settling in that north country and leave them overnight or for a week or more in that old building in North Battleford. That being the case certainly I set myself to do all I could to have a new immigration hall erected there, and I succeeded in having that building constructed. I believe the day is coming when, if we do not accept the vast scheme advocated by the Conservative party when in opposition in regard to immigration, at least we will need a greater population, and we are going to select that population from the best people outside of Canada. We have stopped immigration for the time being, but we have no proof that this is to be a permanent policy. It is only a temporary expedient, as the minister well knows. Consequently, when the time comes for immigration to flow into this country again that building, which is worth