

the construction of public buildings. I propose to give, as a basis for comparison, a couple of references in the east and two or three in the west. I have a definite object in quoting these figures, and I do it on the principle laid down by the minister. In the province of Quebec, at Knowlton, we have an estimated population of 800; a postal revenue of \$2,156.83; money orders issued, \$5,857.93; money orders paid, \$6,427.27; postal notes paid, \$1,026.81. Knowlton is not a customs port so there is no way of judging what the trade is in that respect. Yet this place has been given a post office costing \$26,806, according to the statement of the minister.

Another case is that of Shelburne, N. S., which may be regarded as typical. The following are the figures in relation to this place: Shelburne has a population of 1,500; its postal revenue is \$1,969.78; money orders issued, \$29,439.81; money orders paid, \$19,768.63; postal notes, \$671.21. Shelburne is a port of entry, with three sub-ports. The total duty collected was \$1,471.67, or, in Shelburne itself, \$1,245.61. The exports for the year ending March 31, 1908, were \$33,177. Shelburne has a post office building which, according to the minister's estimate, cost, with the site \$35,158.77.

These are two examples from the eastern part of Canada. Now, take two cities in my own constituency. The first of these is the city of Vernon, for which the figures are as follows:

Vernon, B.C.

Population..	3,500
Postal revenue..	\$ 8,222 96
Money orders issued..	67,543 41
Money orders paid..	32,941 50
Postal notes..	5,813 46

Vernon is an outpost of the port of Revelstoke, and the actual duty collected at Vernon was \$35,879.23. We have not only no post office building, but we have very poor postal accommodation for this growing community. My second example is the city of Grand Forks, in which I live. The following are the figures for Grand Forks:

Population..	2,500
Postal revenue..	\$ 4,695 32
Money orders issued..	89,802 84
Money orders paid	21,802 54
Postal notes paid	1,495 39

Grand Forks is a port of entry with eight sub-ports. The total duty collected was \$51,794.61; the amount collected in Grand Forks City, \$25,712.42. The total exports from this place amount to \$2,981,688, a bigger export than that of any port in Nova Scotia, except Halifax, and bigger than any port in New Brunswick except St. John. Yet, so far, we have no post office building, though we have a site which, I have to tell the minister—he probably knows it al-

ready—was purchased six days before my election. Let me give a few figures concerning also the city of Greenwood, which is in my constituency, and in which my late opponent resides:

Greenwood, B.C.

Population..	2,000
Postal revenue..	\$ 4,254 48
Customs duty collected in Greenwood..	25,162 31
Customs duty collected in Greenwood and sub-ports..	45,454 69

Several sites have been looked at for a public building, but none has been purchased.

I wish to briefly contrast these cases, for the whole country, apart from politics is interested in this matter. The Department of Public Works, as we know, is the great spending department of our government, and I think there should be some basis of comparison to show how the money should be expended. Let me give the figures to show the comparison between Shelburne and Grand Forks:

	Shelburne.	Grand Forks.
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Population..	1,500	a 2,500
Postal revenue..	\$ 1,969 b	\$ 4,695
Money order business..	48,879 b	113,100
Customs duties collected..	1,471 c	51,794
Exports..	33,177 d	2,981,688

a Nearly twice. b More than twice. c 35 times as much. d 90 times as much.

Yet we find that Shelburne has a post office costing \$35,000, and the Grand Forks post office is carried on in a rented building.

Now, let me take the case of Vernon. I speak of this because it is one of those for which the tenders were called as late as October 20, to be opened as late as November 20—that is, eight days after my own election. If the money stringency, or decrease in the revenue, have anything to do with it, it must have been known some time before that. Let me compare the case of Vernon with that of Knowlton:

Knowlton, Vernon.

Population..	800	3,500
Total postal revenue	\$ 2,156 a	\$ 8,222
Total money order business. 13,312 b		106,298
Customs revenue..	c	35,879
Public building..	26,866	d

a 4 times as much. b 8 times as much. Not a custom port. d Pruned out of existence.

Now, a word or two about these figures which I have brought forward for purposes of illustration. I trust I may be allowed to emphasize this contrast before the Minister of Public Works, because it is I who am called upon to explain to my constituency the tremendous disparity in the distribution of the public moneys of this country, and, in spite of the assistance the minister has given, and the explanations he has made, I am afraid I have not been helped very much toward the explanations