

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Bourget: I understand that the Department of Public Works has received numerous protests about this item relating to a public building at Reserve Mines. I wonder whether the acting minister could give the committee some information about the protests and what has been the decision of the department.

Mr. Churchill: The decision of the department is very firm. No protests have been brought to my attention.

Mr. Bourget: Well, there have been protests. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate raised a question about this in the house a week or so ago. He also mentioned that protests had been sent to the department. The new building was put in a location that is not exactly in the centre of the city and was also on the wrong side of the road. I wonder whether the minister has that information.

Mr. Churchill: I understand some protests were received and were given careful consideration. The Postmaster General and his officials were consulted with regard to this and the best site possible was chosen for the location of the post office.

Mr. Bourget: According to the protests the best site was not chosen. The old post office was located in the centre of the town. The information we have received—and we understand the department has received it, too—is that the new location is approximately 300 or 400 feet from the centre of the town and is also on the wrong side of the road. It is dangerous for school children because they would have to cross the street in order to reach the post office. I wonder whether inquiry has been made after protests were received by the department and whether a final decision has been reached.

Mr. Churchill: I appreciate the interest of the hon. member. However, this matter was dealt with on March 6, on a question asked on the orders of the day by the hon. member for Trinity and answered by the Minister of Public Works along the lines which I have just now indicated when as found at page 1516 of *Hansard* he stated:

The site which has been picked is the most popular site, the safest site, and the site that pleases most of the people of Reserve Mines.—

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister has not been touched by the fact that the protestants in this matter were the Royal Canadian Legion. I confess I do not know anything personally about the two sites or anything of that sort. However, there seems to be a steady stream of protests, public meetings and so on. As the minister probably knows, this post office

[Mr. Caron.]

was cancelled last year and has been reinstated this year. The government is definitely satisfied that this is the best place to put it, then.

Item agreed to.

Construction, acquisition, major repairs and improvements of, and plans and sites for, public buildings listed in the details of the estimates, including expenditures on works on other than federal property, provided that treasury board may increase or decrease the amount within the vote to be expended on individual listed projects—further amounts required—

656. New Brunswick, \$375,000.

Mr. Robichaud: Will the amount of \$375,000 mentioned here be sufficient to complete the additions and alterations to the public building in Moncton? Can the minister give some detail as to how this amount will be spent?

Mr. Churchill: This amount will meet the present requirements for this fiscal year. In the main estimates for next year there is another sum to take full care of the further work that must be done.

Item agreed to.

657. Improvements generally and miscellaneous buildings—not more than \$25,000 to be expended on any one project without the approval of treasury board, \$125,000.

Mr. Caron: I think this is the item on which I can speak in general terms on construction and improvements.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, as I said a while ago, I am sorry that the Minister of Public Works is not in the house this evening to discuss his department's estimates. However, even though owing to his absence I have to shorten my remarks, I cannot refrain from suggesting that, if his estimates have apparently taken more time than the others, it is probably because of his own attitude. He behaves in this house as if he had been in Quebec during the most glorious days of the Union Nationale. He sees nothing but beauty and greatness in his achievements and seems inclined to attack everything that was done in the past. Yet, he is quite aware of the fact that, under his administration, certain contracts for the building of post offices have been awarded, not to the lowest tenderer, but to the one most suitable to the member for the constituency in question, following which he set forth false motives to justify his position.

In the course of his remarks, the minister talked about the money spent and the savings he managed to pile up since he became Minister of Public Works. But he did not dare tell us about the federal building at Elliot Lake. When it was realized that the