

Mr. GRAHAM. The arrangement made with the hon. gentleman has not been forgotten. Before anything is done, and as soon as we have the plans completed so that we are in a position to discuss it thoroughly, we will notify him in order that he may bring his deputation down.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. When the discussion opened I asked the minister if a report had been made of the survey on the Nottawasaga and Barrie route. He stated that the survey had been made but that the notes had not been extended and that a full report had not been made. It is nearly two months since that question was asked, and if there are any data available I would like to have a chance to examine them before the deputation comes down.

Mr. GRAHAM. What we have is not intelligible without the plan to follow it along. It will take some weeks to complete the plan and my hon. friend will be advised when the plan is completed.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Would it be possible to see the diary and field books of the engineer?

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend is at liberty to come over and see the report if he desires.

Dominion buildings—rents, &c., \$200,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I promised to give some particulars with regard to the rent of the Canadian building. It was stated that the building was assessed at a certain figure, and that the amount of the rental paid was a very large return upon its value.

Mr. LENNOX. Will the minister allow me to mention that the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain), who brought up that question the other night, is not here to-night. I do not like to ask the minister to let it stand, but I know that the hon. member for Peel would be glad if he would do so.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am quite willing under the circumstances to let it stand.

Item allowed to stand.

Public buildings, British Columbia—renewals, improvements, repairs, &c., \$8,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. This is the usual vote.

Mr. BURRELL. In connection with the grant for public buildings in British Columbia, I would like to quote from Hansard, at page 1407, where the minister gave a list of those works for which tenders had been asked and which it was not proposed to proceed with this year. They were in the whole of Canada eleven in number, and were all wharfs, with the exception of one public building, that of Vernon in the province of British Columbia. On page 1347 of 'Hansard,' I find that the minister said :

Mr. LENNOX.

I decided to recommend to my colleagues in the first place to drop those public works for which tenders had not been called irrespective of their necessity. That rule was followed possibly with one or two exceptions. Then that left to be considered all those works in regard to which we had called for tenders. We went through the list again, applied the pruning knife and considered as to whether or not there might not be a few of these which we might drop. We also considered as to whether they were really of such urgent public necessity that they could not stand over for another year.

So that in that pruning process the public building of Vernon in British Columbia is the only one in the whole of Canada which has been placed in that position; and I assume, from the statement of the minister that he felt a solemn obligation—I think that was his phrase—in regard to fulfilling these contracts later on, that he will have no objection to assuring me that this building will be proceeded with next year.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I may say to my hon. friend that when the appropriation for the Vernon building was put in the estimates, it was put there in good faith, because I and my colleagues were satisfied that it would very soon be required to be constructed in the public interest. But we thought that it might be allowed to stand over for another year, along with a number of other public works. I think I gave a list of eight or ten works in the various portions of the Dominion which, although tenders had been called for them, we arrived at a decision to postpone. I may say to my hon. friend that the land has already been purchased for the building at Vernon, and that just as soon as we are able to take up the other works for which appropriations were made last session, the building at Vernon will be proceeded with.

Mr. BURRELL. I would like to run over a few things in connection with this matter of public buildings. In the various discussions which have taken place the minister has laid down certain principles as those which have guided him in the construction of public buildings throughout Canada. On page 1333 of Hansard, he said :

No rule has been laid down as to the exact number of people required in a place in order to justify the erection therein of a public building. Population does not always govern. Something may depend upon the trade that is done in a place, upon the customs receipts, upon the post office building, upon the possibility or otherwise of renting suitable buildings.

Then, on page 1347, in answer to a question as to what principle guided him in this matter, the minister said: 'the public necessities.' I think all of us are perfectly willing to grant that these are the two principles that should guide any government in