

Supply—Public Works

Mr. STEWART: I thought it might be something in the east block.

Mr. SPENCE: Was there not a large item for the same thing in the estimates last year? Are we never to be through carving stones in this building?

Mr. CARDIN: There was a similar item.

Mr. SPENCE: Just destroying the building, that is what you are doing—wasting money.

Mr. CARDIN: The same amount was voted last year.

Item agreed to.

Public Buildings—Saskatchewan

Eastend—purchase of and alterations to building for postal purposes, \$10,500.

Foam Lake—public building, \$10,000.

Meadow Lake—public building, \$15,000.

Moose Jaw armoury—reconstruction, \$75,000.

Regina—new public building, \$12,000.

Wadena—public building, \$12,000.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I think this is one time where Saskatchewan and Manitoba, those two banner provinces, have been discriminated against a little. I am rather surprised at this, considering that on the government side there is almost a solid bloc from those provinces. In my opinion \$134,000 is a very small amount to spend on public buildings in Saskatchewan, when Quebec is being granted over a million dollars, Ontario over two million dollars and the city of Ottawa over a million and three quarter dollars.

Mr. SPENCE: And all that is taken out of Ontario.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): There are also the other expenditures on public works of the nature of improvements to harbours and rivers and so on. Saskatchewan and Manitoba are not faring very well. However, would the minister give us some information with respect to the purchase of a building for the postal service at Eastend? What is the character of the building they are purchasing there?

Mr. CARDIN: It is the Royal bank building.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): What amount is to be spent for improvements and alterations of the building?

Mr. CARDIN: For the building and land the provision is \$6,500; for fittings \$3,500; for general repairs \$300; and contingencies \$200. As regards the complaint made by the hon. member, I noticed, for my sight is good, that he was smiling when he made the comparison between the small amounts that are being granted to the western provinces and the large amounts allocated to Ontario and Que-

[Mr. Cardin.]

bec. Of course, if he runs through the list of all expenditures made by the government he may find that a balance is pretty well established as between the provinces.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): It is not often that out in Saskatchewan we have the chance to smile over anything. I assume that the buildings at Foam Lake, Meadow Lake and Wadena are for post offices, are they not?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I assume also that the item for Moose Jaw is for the repairing of the building that was burnt.

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Rebuilding and repairing. Was there any provisional estimate made of the amount that would be required, or was the estimate \$75,000? What is the contract price?

Mr. CARDIN: The amount we are providing is supposed to be what is required to make the repairs to the building.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Has any contract been let?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): May I inform the hon. member that the contract price was \$105,973, and the expenditure since construction began is \$37,674.

Mr. COLDWELL: I should like to support the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) in his criticism. I have noticed that in the last several years the western provinces have not received very much for rural improvements. Of course, they have received considerable assistance for rural relief. I will remember that when the minister introduced his main estimates in January he made the statement—I think I remember his words—that there was something very dear to his heart, and that was that he thought that along with the back-to-the-land movement we should endeavour to do something for rural communities. Now in western Canada there are a number of good towns. I might say—and other members represent localities with the same sort of towns—that in my own constituency we have two larger towns, Rosetown and Biggar. Rosetown particularly is situate in one of the best agricultural areas of the province and Biggar is an important railroad point. In years gone by these places have been overlooked.

I am glad to see that some buildings are going into three or four places in the rural areas of Saskatchewan, but I do think the minister is right when he says that the people who beautify such towns are entitled to some