

Supply—Public Works

Chief Architect's branch.

Construction, repairs and improvements of public buildings.

Generally.

298. Public buildings generally—repairs, alterations, fittings and improvements, \$200,000.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): What does this item cover?

Mr. CARDIN: It covers all repairs, alterations, fittings and improvements which may become necessary during the course of the year. This is a general item which is used to cover unforeseen expenditures during the year.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): This is not included with the other votes for Quebec, Nova Scotia and so on?

Mr. CARDIN: This covers the whole dominion and is used to supplement the particular votes for the provinces. It very often happens that the amount set aside by the officers of the department to take care of public buildings in a province is not sufficient, so we are able to take a few hundred or a thousand dollars from this vote.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Was the amount voted last year used?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. HAZEN: How was the money distributed among the provinces last year?

Mr. CARDIN: Of that \$200,000, we spent a little over \$12,000 in the maritime provinces.

Mr. HAZEN: There are three maritime provinces; how much did each receive?

Mr. CARDIN: I regret that the amount has not been divided.

Mr. HAZEN: Where can that information be obtained?

Mr. CARDIN: I can give that information to my hon. friend to-morrow. The figures for the provinces are:

Maritime provinces	\$12,000
Quebec	75,000
Ontario	24,000
Ottawa	63,000
Manitoba	1,100
Saskatchewan	6,200
British Columbia	11,000

Item agreed to.

Chief Engineer's branch.

Dredging.

305. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, \$52,424.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would this include dredging at Churchill?

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Mr. CARDIN: That work is under the national harbours board. There would be no money from this vote spent at Churchill.

Item agreed to.

Chief Engineer's branch.

Maintenance and operation of graving docks, locks and dams, etc.

307. Champlain graving dock, \$53,985.

Mr. GREEN: Are these graving docks owned by the dominion and operated by private companies, or what is the arrangement?

Mr. CARDIN: They are owned and operated by the department.

Item agreed to.

Chief Engineer's branch.

Maintenance and operation of roads and bridges.

315. New Westminster bridge, \$45,300.

Mr. GREEN: Will the minister explain this item?

Mr. CARDIN: This covers the operation of the New Westminster bridge which was transferred to the dominion government by the government of British Columbia. My hon. friend will remember that when the new bridge was built, the question of interference with navigation was brought up and the provincial government undertook to avoid any such interference. At the time it was thought it would be necessary to do away with the old bridge, but we have been advised that we might wait before taking such drastic action. It was contended that in reality the piers of the new bridge would not, as was at first believed, interfere with navigation. To make sure that the bridge would be removed when navigation would necessitate removal, it was agreed that the bridge should be transferred to the federal authority; and after a certain period of time, if it was established that it creates no interference with navigation, it would be returned to the provincial government. Complete accounts will be kept of the revenues which the department will derive from the operation of this bridge.

Item agreed to.

Telegraph branch.

Telegraph and telephone services—operation and maintenance.

332. Telegraph and telephone services generally, \$6,000.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: May I have an explanation of this item?

Mr. CARDIN: This amount of \$6,000 is required to cover unavoidable expenditures in