

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I agree with my hon. friend that the need for public buildings throughout the Dominion of Canada is very great indeed. Demands are numerous, pressing and urgent. If my hon. friend but knew the total moneys required he would realize how severe the pressure is. The department is endeavouring gradually to overtake the demands for public buildings and as a result year by year the amounts expended are increasing. In the year 1922 the total amount expended was only \$14,000,000; in 1923 it was \$16,000,000. I am giving round figures. In 1924-25 the figure was \$18,000,000. In 1925-26 it amounted to \$17,000,000. In 1926-27 it was \$13,000,000. In 1927-28 it was \$17,000,000; in 1928-29 it was \$20,000,000; in 1929-30 it was \$25,000,000 and in 1930-31 it was \$32,000,000. Hon. members will observe that the expenditure is progressing all the time, and the department is endeavouring to overtake the requirements.

Let me suggest to my hon. friend that very little is gained by comparing the expenditure of different provinces in any particular years. Very heavy expenditures may be incurred in a given year in a particular province because certain large buildings are under construction. As an example may I point out that last year in the city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, a building was completed at a cost of \$750,000. Another building costing \$250,000 was erected in Regina. Expenditures such as those throw comparisons out of balance. Very little can be deduced by comparing one year with another without due consideration to the work under construction. It will be found that from year to year there are discrepancies in expenditures owing to large undertakings in particular localities.

Mr. McINTOSH: Mr. Chairman, I was somewhat impressed by the appeal made by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Stitt) with regard to the northern portions of western Canada. I represent in this house a riding in the northern part of Saskatchewan, and while I have no complaint to make of the development of that portion of the province during the last five or ten years and no complaint in connection with the erection of public buildings necessary to promote that development, yet when the items for Saskatchewan are under consideration I hope the minister will listen to the appeals made with regard to the northern portion not only of Saskatchewan but also of Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. So far as the middle west is concerned, I would say that the portion of country running in a northwesterly direction

[Mr. Donnelly.]

after you leave Saskatoon and cross the North Saskatchewan river is the coming portion of that part of the Dominion. There can be no question that that country has all the possibilities of a great future. There is water power, lumber, timber; there are wheat areas and mixed farming areas. Hon. members know what that means. We know that when there is an impetus given to the building up of this great Dominion, the northland more than ever must come into its own, depression or no depression. Therefore I urge that that part of Canada be given the necessary facilities in the way of post offices and other public buildings, for it is vitally important for the minister in charge of the Department of Public Works to be at all times on the alert in helping forward the development of the great northern areas of the western provinces. Personally I believe the hon. minister will do his best in this respect.

During the discussion on the omission of an appropriation for a post office building in Dominion City, in the riding of the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) I understood the minister to say that the demand for the building of the Welland canal came largely from western Canada. May I tell him that I think he is not quite correct. True, the demand came from the west in the sense that it came from the southern parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but the northern and middle portions of the three western provinces were not greatly concerned about the undertaking. I admit that they did not knock the proposition, but this was because they regarded it from a national standpoint—as all great public undertakings should be regarded—and to-day they ask the rest of Canada to be nationally minded with regard to the completion of the Hudson Bay route. We expect the terminal and other facilities at Churchill to be completed so that every chance may be given to demonstrate the feasibility of this great undertaking to provide for our products an outlet to the markets of the world. May I add that western Canada can always be depended upon to regard all national undertakings from a national viewpoint.

The hon. member for Willow Bunch (Mr. Donnelly) has drawn attention to the small appropriation for Saskatchewan of only \$176,000 as compared with the appropriation last year of \$1,000,000 odd, or a decrease of 80 per cent. In the case of Manitoba there is approximately a decrease in appropriation of 28 per cent. There is no doubt about the importance of undertaking public buildings in order to relieve unemployment. In this