

extremely unfavourable state of development, and is not as befits a modern and growing port of the importance of the Canadian lakehead.

For these reasons I beg the minister to give consideration to this matter of assistance toward bridge construction in order that we may have free access to the new lakehead harbour which is nearing completion at the moment. Unless there are adequate bridges the dock facilities will be severely impeded. This has been brought out by the consultant engineers who are on the job supervising the seaway terminal at the lakehead. The minister may not have the answer right now, but within the next few days, or as soon as possible, he may be able to give us the answer to this problem. I have had the opportunity of bringing this matter before the Minister of Public Works but unfortunately I have been unable to arouse any degree of enthusiasm for this particular project. However, I believe it is absolutely necessary and I trust the government will show a change of heart with regard to this project.

Item agreed to.

General—

660. Miscellaneous works not otherwise provided for including expenditures on works on other than federal property: a maximum of \$15,000 may be expended in respect of any one work and, with the approval of treasury board, that maximum may be increased to \$25,000—further amount required, \$190,000

Mr. Bourget: I understand this item has to do with small post offices. If so, will the minister give us a list of the small post offices which have been built?

Mr. Churchill: This does refer to small post offices. If the hon. member will turn to *Hansard* of February 9 of this year he will find that a list of post offices per province is given.

Mr. Bourget: The item under consideration amounts to \$190,000. I suppose that means about eight or nine post offices. The list would not be too long to put on the record.

Mr. Churchill: There are ten post offices involved in this. They are: Abbotsford, Quebec; Valcourt, Quebec; Gogama, Ontario; Fort Erie, Ontario; Longlac, Ontario; Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba; Borden, Saskatchewan; Churchbridge, Saskatchewan; Hodgeville, Saskatchewan; Elk Point, Alberta.

Mr. Bourget: Can the minister tell the committee the average size of these post offices in square feet?

Mr. Churchill: Yes. Eight hundred square feet net useable space.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wish to draw the attention of the committee to the fact that for some reason or other the government did not think it important to build any of the post offices listed, when the original list was published in *Hansard*, in two of the provinces. I draw attention to the fact that notwithstanding the strong representations which have been made, none of those post offices was being built in either Newfoundland or Prince Edward Island—that is, if the list to which the minister referred is the one about which I asked the Minister of Public Works at the time.

Mr. Churchill: I will draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to those remarks. It is not a matter of deliberate policy to exclude two provinces of the importance of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, but post offices are built according to the number of people who are being served and the revenue which will result from them. However, this is an important point and one which deserves attention.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the minister be good enough to join his recommendation to my own that post offices be built at Hare Bay in Bonavista bay? I have been trying for four years to get the department to do something about that important and growing settlement. Action is doubly necessary now because that place is a settlement which suffered most from the fire, and a little extra work this spring would be extremely helpful to that community.

Mr. Churchill: I am pleased to support any program which is for the benefit of the people generally, and the hon. member seems to have made out a very good case.

Item agreed to.

The Chairman: Vote No. 660 terminated the supplementary estimates of the Department of Public Works falling in this group. We will now proceed to a consideration of vote No. 661 which is concerned with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, pensions and other benefits.

Mr. Pickersgill: Before the Acting Minister of Public Works leaves I think we should draw attention to the fact that when a minister shows some courtesy to the committee he gets his estimates through much more readily.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Pensions and other benefits—

661. To deem the election made by the late Benjamin Vinton Beddow on the 9th day of March, 1961 to be valid for all purposes of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act, notwithstanding that he was not medically examined as required by paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 7 of the said act, and to authorize the