

attention simply because the complaint was made to me in all seriousness by a business man of good standing, and because I think it should be looked into very carefully. If anything like that was done, steps should be taken to prevent its happening again. I shall be glad to give to the minister the name of the complainant and any other names concerned. He will appreciate, of course, why I am not making the name public at the moment.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I want to thank the hon. member for bringing this matter to my attention. I can assure him that no instructions of that character have been issued by the minister or by any person with his authority, and none will be. I shall certainly investigate the matter.

Item agreed to.

Drumheller—public building—under contract, \$60,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is the work on this building progressing satisfactorily, and when will it be completed?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The contract was awarded on February 2, 1931. The date for completion is September 3, 1931. I should think at this season they will be going right ahead with the work, and we shall endeavour to see that it is completed on time.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The original contractors are carrying on satisfactorily, I take it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As far as I know.

Item agreed to.

Mr. LUCAS: Before we pass from the Alberta vote, may I say that some time ago the town of Viking sent a petition to the Minister of Public Works requesting a public building at that point. I notice that no such provision has been made in the estimates, and I would ask the minister just what attention that petition has received.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can assure my hon. friend that I have many such petitions, and they have been the subject of much serious and anxious consideration by me. I regret that not more of them appear in the estimates. I will look this particular one up and see how it stands.

British Columbia—Dominion public buildings—improvements, repairs, etc., \$45,000.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): The constituency of Skeena, which I have the honour to represent, includes the city of Prince Rupert.

Prince Rupert has no such thing as a federal public building. The federal government are just renting a shack which a reputable farmer would not use as a barn. We have had it for a number of years. A delegation from the city of Prince Rupert waited upon the government within the last two weeks, and I understand that they were given the assurance that when the present lease expires their representations will be given serious consideration. We have in Prince Rupert, which has a population of approximately 10,000, a provincial building which cost about \$500,000. Prince Rupert, as some hon. members realize and others do not, occupies a strategic position as a British Pacific port at the terminus of the Transcontinental railway. I understand that the government gave the representatives from the city of Prince Rupert and the chamber of commerce a good hearing, and no doubt the claims of the city will be given consideration. But when I see only the small amount of \$45,000 in the estimates for improvements and repairs to Dominion public buildings in British Columbia, I think it is up to me as a member representing one of the ridings of that province to remonstrate and to say that that is not doing justice to British Columbia. I trust that the government will look into the matter and see that central and northern British Columbia are given consideration in the supplementary estimates. I repeat that because of Prince Rupert's location at the end of a transcontinental railway and as a British Pacific port it occupies a strategic position. It stands third in customs and post office revenue in British Columbia. Prince Rupert is the second British North America port on the Pacific, and I am sure hon. members on both sides of the house will agree that we cannot develop British North America as it should be developed unless we do justice to the port of Prince Rupert. From the fact that only \$45,000 is appropriated to the province of British Columbia for improvements and repairs to public buildings, one might almost think the government had forgotten that such a place as British Columbia exists.

Before I sit down I would like to impress my hon. friends opposite with the fact that Prince Rupert lies in a strategic position also in respect to northern and central British Columbia. At the present time we have only this rented shack, which accommodates customs, post office, telegraphs, fisheries, and public works. For that shack we are paying something like \$7,000 a year in rent. I received that information from the Minister of Public Works, who was kind enough to give