

condition. Apparently the local Tories frustrated my efforts to provide work for the artisans and labourers of the community, simply because the item of \$20,000 was placed in the estimates as the result of a request that I had transmitted to the former Minister of Public Works. I hope in future the hon. minister will be very careful in dealing with any representations he may receive from those hard-hearted Tories.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I hope some day to go down through my hon. friend's county, and I shall be pleased to drop into Trois Pistoles.

Mr. POULIOT: I invite the hon. minister to do so, and I shall be very pleased to receive him at home; indeed, I will give a cocktail party for him.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I accept the invitation at once.

Mr. ST-PERE: We will all be there.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Now, will the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Girouard) allow me to give him some information which I had not at hand when he asked for it. Advertisements for tenders were inserted in the following papers:

Victoriaville; La Voix des Bois Francs; Ste. Marie de Beauce, Le Guide; Sherbrooke, The Record, and The Forum; Ottawa, The Canada Gazette.

Item agreed to.

#### Public Buildings—Ontario

Belleville public building—addition to site, \$20,000.

Belleville public building—improvements to heating, \$1,100.

Brockville—public building—alterations and improvements, \$12,000.

Copper Cliff—public building—under contract, \$26,000.

Dominion public buildings—improvements, repairs, etc., \$125,000.

Fort Frances—public building, \$1,500.

Fort William—public building, \$50,000.

Gore Bay—public building—under contract, \$4,000.

Guelph—public building, \$50,000.

Hawkesbury—public building—alterations to fittings, \$1,500.

Keewatin—public building—under contract, \$8,000.

Leamington public building—improvements to heating, \$1,200.

New Liskeard—public building, \$61,000.

North Bay public building—improvements, \$1,100.

Orillia public building—alterations, improvements, etc., \$5,000.

Parry Sound—public building, \$25,000.

Penetanguishene—public building, \$57,000.

Perth—public building, \$25,000.

Port Arthur public building—addition and alterations—under contract, \$5,000.

Port Credit—public building—under contract, \$40,000.

Stratford public building—addition, \$41,000.

Sturgeon Falls—public building—under contract, \$5,500.

Sydenham—public building—under contract, \$4,000.

Thorold—site for public building, \$4,000.

Toronto—customs house—under contract, \$670,000.

Toronto—postal station "A"—mechanical equipment, improvements, etc.—under contract, \$33,500.

Welland public building—alterations to fittings, \$2,000.

Windsor—combined public building and C.N.R. terminal, \$100,000.—Total, \$1,379,400.

Mr. DUFF: Mr. Chairman, before we deal with the individual items under this vote I desire for a few moments to refer to a statement which the minister read when the committee met this afternoon. This statement was given in response to my request a few days ago for certain information with regard to the appropriations and expenditures for 1930-31. In looking over the statement, I notice, as the minister said—and this, of course, includes only the Public Works department—that a total of \$38,099,727.70 was voted at the general session of 1930, of which only \$32,981,613.74 was expended—or a balance unexpended of \$5,118,113.96. In answer to the member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) the hon. minister sought to set up an alibi by stating that other governments had done the same thing, that is, not expended the full amount of the vote. I am surprised that because previous governments, and especially Liberal governments, had not expended the full amount appropriated that the minister should use that as an excuse for not spending money voted before the Conservative government came into power last August. It is quite true that this money was voted three or four weeks before parliament was dissolved, but the present government had an opportunity in August, September, October and November, of spending this \$5,000,000 odd,—or perhaps more, because it is quite likely that some of the \$38,000,000 was expended during those months. I say it is a pretty small excuse for the Conservative government and for the Minister of Public Works to give, as a reason why this money was not expended, that the previous administration, in former years, did not spend the money which was voted by this parliament. May I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that there was a different condition existing last year than existed in 1929, in 1928 and in previous years. This country was prosperous during those years and perhaps there was not the necessity for spending public money in this country.