

Supply—Public Works

buildings when people are being brought in from the mainland to do the same job.

Mr. Green: The department apparently has not been aware of this situation and we will look into it at once.

Mr. Carter: May I ask the minister a question about this local industry. We manufacture a number of products in Newfoundland today such as cement, etcetera, which could be used in public buildings. I have just been made aware that the minister answered part of this question while I was in the lobby and did not hear him. Could the minister tell me, however, whether the local industries had an opportunity to tender on materials for these public buildings?

Mr. Green: Local industry would have to tender to the head contractor.

Mr. Carter: Yes, but my understanding is that when they tender to the contractor the contractor finds himself bound by the specifications with respect to materials which are actually written out in the contract and if the particular product is not actually specified by name then they cannot tender.

Mr. Green: If the hon. member will give us an example where this has been done we will remedy the situation at once.

Mr. Carter: This is not a complaint peculiar to Newfoundland; I am getting complaints of this kind from all over the maritimes. The people of the maritimes complain that local suppliers do not have a chance of supplying materials required for public buildings, and they blame the situation on the specifications. Some even go so far as to imply there are lobbies in Ottawa to get preference for certain materials.

Mr. Green: I would not like the hon. member to spread the news around, but we actually specify local materials are to be used, wherever possible in the maritimes.

Mr. Carter: And that includes Newfoundland?

Mr. Green: Yes.

Mr. Hardie: On the question of local labour, is there any way in which the minister could write into the contract that a certain percentage of local labour must be used?

Mr. Green: This is actually written into the contract.

Mr. Pickersgill: When I spoke earlier today I was just about to say something with respect to standard plans to which the minister had referred when he opened the discussion. This matter is very relevant to this particular item because there is no doubt that there are a number of public buildings needed, such as

post offices, in some of the middle-sized places of Newfoundland. These have not been built in the last few years, for the reasons I indicated earlier with which I think the minister agreed. It would be a very great help to have these buildings constructed at this time when the provision of employment is so vital. As to standard plans, I have in mind particularly the plans used at Glovertown and Joe Batt's Arm. Buildings of the kind I have mentioned are well adapted to these communities and those plans could be used. There are a number of other communities. I do not profess to know other parts of Newfoundland as well as I know my own riding, but in my own riding there are three or four places which would qualify with exactly the same criteria as the two I have mentioned. So far as revenues and amount of postal and telegraph business are concerned they are equally suitable for projects of this kind. I have a few places to add to the minister's shelf, although I do not seriously expect him to get all this work done this year because I know the estimates are now before us. I know, however, that he is anxious to go ahead with his planning for the next year so that he can really make an early start and so that that start will not be just the vision mentioned in his speech, but a reality.

I would mention, therefore, that Gambo and Hare Bay would undoubtedly qualify. I would also like to ask the minister, although he may not have the information immediately if he would tell me before the estimates are concluded whether the announcement made by my opponent during the election campaign to the effect that a building was going to be constructed this year at Badger's Quay is correct. I believe it is correct, and I hope it is, but there is no evidence of it in the estimates. I presume the reason is the same as in the case of Wesleyville, namely that it is not expected to exceed \$20,000 in cost and therefore does not have to be specified separately.

While on this subject there are two other points I would like to mention and one perhaps is a criticism of the administration to which I belonged. Even though I was a member of the government for four years, I was never able to discover—so well kept was the secret—who or which department it is that really decides the size of these buildings. If you go to the Post Office Department they will say, "Oh, yes, we ask for so much, but those people in the Department of Public Works always screw us down", and, if you go to the Department of Public Works, they say, "We are just purveyors. Whatever the Post Office Department asks for, we give them."