

soon as the finances of the country are in better condition we may be entitled to the privilege which has already been granted by this and former governments to other cities much less important than the city of Granby, where the mails are delivered to the homes, offices and business places of their citizens. Now may I ask the minister what is the nature of the contemplated repairs, when will they be commenced and when may we hope to see them completed?

Mr. J. D. REID: Not only as regards this appropriation, but as regards all appropriations in the Public Works Department for repairs to public buildings and wharves, the requests were made in every case by the department in control of the building or wharf. The Public Works Department has looked into each matter very carefully, and there is no doubt whatever that the repairs are urgently needed and should be made. This appropriation is required for the building of an additional storey over the existing extension of the public building at Granby to provide increased accommodation on the ground floor for the post office and also for general alterations to the interior of the building, including the removal of the staircase and the installation of toilets. The size of the extension over which the additional storey is to be built is 21 feet 6 inches by 37 feet 6 inches. The estimated cost is as follows: One storey addition over extension, \$12,000; alterations to interior fittings, \$4,000; contingencies and superintendence, \$2,000; total, \$18,000.

These repairs are urgently needed in every case. A speech similar to the one my hon. friend has made could be made, I suppose, by any member of this House in connection with any of the Estimates I am asking the House to pass. I should like to have these Estimates put through, tenders called for, and the work started as soon as possible because if I have to wait for some time, half the summer will be gone. My intention is to instruct the deputy minister to call for tenders and proceed with the work at once so far as these repairs are concerned.

Mr. BOIVIN: I hope the committee will not construe my remarks as an attempt to obstruct the passage of this item and on behalf of my constituents I desire to thank the minister for having once more placed it in the Estimates.

Mr. COPP: I do not rise for the purpose of opposing the passage of this item, but I want to take this opportunity of asking the Acting Minister of Public Works to

[Mr. Boivin.]

apply the argument that has been so well made by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Boivin) to other post offices and public buildings throughout the Dominion, and particularly to the post office building in the town of Sackville. My hon. friend says that the post office that is going to be repaired at Granby was built in 1900, when the population of the town was something like 4,000. The post office which I have requested the department to have replaced or rebuilt in the town of Sackville was not built in 1900, but in the 1840's. It was an old store before Sackville was a town, when in fact it was the smallest kind of country village, and hardly a village indeed. After the town became incorporated and began to grow, this store was moved off on a temporary foundation and has now been used for several years as a post office which would be a disgrace to any village, let alone a town. The town of Sackville to-day has a population of about 4,000 people, and furthermore, it is the seat of the Mount Allison institution which during nine months of the year has an attendance of 1,000 students, and of course they go to this post office for their mail. My hon. friend from Shefford says that the lobby of the post office at Granby is filled with people at mail time, and that business men have to stand at the wicket half an hour. The patrons of the Sackville post office have to stand at the wicket two hours, and then cannot get their mail. They have no post office boxes there or anything of that kind, and I say to the minister in all seriousness and frankness that the post office facilities in the town of Sackville are a disgrace to this country, a disgrace to the Government, and to the Public Works Department which has charge of the public buildings of our country. I have been drawing the minister's attention to this matter for some two or three years, and the excuse was given to me and to a delegation that came here from Sackville that it was impossible to build post offices or any public buildings while the war was on, but that when the war was over these public buildings would be given consideration. Well, the war is over, and the very first item the committee is asked to vote is the amount of \$25,000 for grading and paving streets around Amherst drill hall. Amherst has no more need of a drill hall at this particular time than this Chamber needs another marble walk around it to keep people outside. I say again to my hon. friend that when he asks us to vote