

been trying to get this public building for the last nine years and not successful simply because we did not have any representation in the house.

Mr. McINTOSH: You had representation.

Mr. STITT (Nelson): We in the north did not have any representation in this house. The hon. member at that time, Mr. Bird, represented Swan River valley, not the northern part of his constituency. He was a very useful member to the government then in power.

An hon. MEMBER: No, he was not; he was more of a Tory.

Mr. STITT (Nelson): He worked with the government then in power, but did not procure anything for his constituency, even though he did vote inadvertently. I am quite satisfied that this item of \$25,000 will no more than start this building. I for one will not be satisfied with merely \$25,000 for a public building in The Pas.

An hon. MEMBER: How much do you want?

Mr. STITT (Nelson): That is only enough for the basement or probably the first storey.

This afternoon the hon. member for Rimouski was complaining that the government was paying too much rent for a building in his constituency. I would like to draw the attention of the committee to the rent that has been paid for years for the present post office in The Pas. It is a building 30 feet by 40 feet which could not be called anything else but a rabbit hutch. The government has been paying \$300 per month for that building, which could not be rented to anybody else for \$75. I feel sure of my ground when I say that if that building were put under the hammer it would not sell for the amount of one year's rental. The hon. member for Rimouski is not the only one who has been affected by high rentals for buildings. I hope the minister proceeds to construct this building at the earliest possible moment, because there is no town in this Dominion which needs a public building as does The Pas.

An hon. MEMBER: Where is that?

Mr. STITT (Nelson): When expenditures are mentioned for the north, hon. members hold up their hands in horror. That remark applies to hon. members on this side as well as on the other side of the chamber. Eastern and western members have been looking to

the south so long that they have developed an inferiority complex; if this country is going to develop they had better do an about-turn and look northward for a while.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not want the hon. member for Nelson to leave the impression that I am opposing this item. I have been at The Pas and I have some good friends there. I know it is a growing community; there are wonderful prospects for the northern country, and the eyes of Canada will more than ever turn in that direction. However, the hon. member has proved my point; he is on the right side of politics, therefore he is getting his building right now. He said that his predecessor in office could not get this building; he was not on the right side, but as soon as a member was on the right side, the vote was put in the estimates. I repeat again that if the minister is adopting in respect of certain ridings the principle that because of falling revenues he is prevented from carrying out public works for which the money was voted in a previous parliament, he should adopt the same principle for other ridings. Dominion City needs a public building, even if the revenue is one one-hundredth the revenue of The Pas. The people are entitled to proper accommodation, and there is no reason why they should not get it. I do not want the hon. member to create the impression that I am against the vote for The Pas, because I believe it is the coming city of western Canada.

Mr. BOWMAN: Will the minister give us the particulars of the item for Dominion public buildings, \$30,000?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This is an item which appears from year to year to cover repairs, rentals and other incidental expenses in connection with all public buildings in Manitoba.

Item agreed to.

PUBLIC BUILDING—SASKATCHEWAN

Melville—Government's share of cost of local improvements, \$1,050.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I was just wondering, Mr. Chairman, what this vast sum was for, whether it was for grading around the new post office or for fixing up the sidewalks.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This amount is to provide for the payment of the government's share of the cost of a concrete sidewalk on Fourth avenue, and of a sewer on Main street, fronting the Melville public building.