

cipality I have been speaking of sent a telegram to the Minister of Public Works, dated September 25, 1930, as follows:

Hon. H. A. Stewart,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa.

The council of the municipality of Franklin strongly urge the immediate letting of a contract for post office building in Dominion City. Would greatly relieve the unemployment situation.

John R. Witty,

Secretary-Treasurer,
Municipality of Franklin.

The Minister of Public Works knows, as does every member of the house, that in these small communities there are always from twenty-five to thirty young men, some of them married, who go out and work on the farm during the spring and for whom there is no work in the fall after farming operations have ceased. They cannot go into the city and get relief of any kind because most of the cities have regulations regarding residents with which people from outside cannot comply. I would forgive the minister and the government for their negligence or—shall I say?—for overlooking certain constituencies and certain parts of Canada if the minister would promise me that in the supplementary estimates an amount will be provided for the construction of this post office. I will sit down to allow the minister to give me an answer.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Before the minister makes any such promises as that—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Is the hon. member answering for the minister?

Mr. CHAPLIN: No, I am not.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Then I am going to go on, and you can talk after I am through.

Mr. CHAPLIN: You sat down.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: You cannot speak in my time. Afterwards you can have all the time you want.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I understood, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member was through. He sat down.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I am not through. I said that I would sit down for the minister to give me an answer, and if he will answer me I will sit down now.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It will not take very long to answer the question. I cannot promise the hon. gentleman or any other hon. member of this house that any item will appear in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Will the minister take it into consideration?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, certainly.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Serious consideration?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Very serious consideration.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: In order that the minister may give it very serious consideration, I am going to present a few more arguments in favour of this post office. I took very good care at the special session of parliament to ask a question with regard to public moneys which had been voted by the last parliament and earmarked for certain public works. We were discussing the \$20,000,000 grant for unemployment relief, and I asked this question, which will be found at page 160 of Hansard of September 12, 1930:

Mr. Beaubien: Under clause 2 of this bill we are giving the governor in council the right to expend \$20,000,000 without knowing where or how that money is to be expended. I understand that this sum is for the relief of unemployment. In view of the fact that certain moneys were voted during the last session of parliament, earmarked for certain public works, is it the intention of the government to go on with those works which were designated in the estimates passed unanimously last year, with a view to relieving unemployment that may exist in the smaller communities, where any unemployment that exists is not given so much prominence in the press?

The Prime Minister, after answering certain questions that had been asked by the hon. member for Quebec East, replied to my question as follows:

Apart altogether from the question by my hon. friend who has just taken his seat (Mr. Beaubien) as to public building undertakings, with respect to those, the details, or—shall I say?—particulars of general expenditure were given for the purpose of meeting that situation if it arises.

He goes on:

So far as I am concerned, I hope the expenditures federally will be as little as possible in that regard, but it well may be that with the necessity and opportunity combining—that is, the necessity for something being done and this providing the opportunity to enable it to be done—it is in the public interest that it should be done now rather than ten or twelve months later. This affords an opportunity of calling for tenders, drawing plans and letting the contracts for doing the work. That is all.

Then comes this paragraph, to which I wish to direct particular attention:

So far as those undertakings that are covered by the estimates of the present year are concerned, they are constantly engaging the attention of the government. As the former Min-