

able quarters. They had some land but they had no buildings. The conditions were unsanitary and unhealthful, and in every way the situation was unsatisfactory. When the pressure for the erection of these buildings reached the point it did, the question was as to where they should be erected. There were some barracks erected at Winnipeg, and they made up their minds that it was desirable to construct some buildings of this kind in Alberta.

Mr. ROGERS: I had in mind western Canada generally, Winnipeg as well.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend had in mind these buildings at Calgary.

Mr. ROGERS: I said buildings in western Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: They were erected there by means of substantial expenditures, and that work gave employment to a very large number of men. The material utilized also gave employment to large numbers of men in factories and mills, and the extent to which employment was provided by the expenditure of that money was very great indeed—for instance the steel, the fabricating of it, the concrete, which came from the Exshaw cement plant, and then the work of levelling and cleaning up the premises. I went over the whole work myself when I was there in the early part of the year to see what had been involved in the way of work, and I was amazed at the number of men who had been employed. That was an undertaking that had to be carried out, otherwise it would have meant the abandonment of the permanent force establishment as far as that community was concerned. And the men giving their time and being paid a trifling wage are the permanent police force of this country, men who may be called upon to risk their lives under certain conditions, as they have done in past years; they are entitled to a place to live in, and when the opportunity offered it was provided. To compare that with a community hall is not worthy of the hon. gentleman. To compare that with the erection of eight or ten community halls is entirely beside the question. This nation assumed the responsibility of maintaining law and order. To do so it maintains a permanent force, whose duties are fixed by law. These men have horses which must be properly stabled; the men are entitled to decent living quarters, and these have been provided by this grant. Whether it was ill considered or not, I know that the pressure for it has been going on for long years, and I believe it was as judicious and as wise an

expenditure as could be made. In addition it provides for the very matter that is in the estimates this year, namely an airport and additional accommodation and facilities for landing and taking off. It is all part of that self-contained unit. It is not completed, but if there was ever an expenditure warranted in the interest of the nation as a whole it is that expenditure, unless we are to shirk our entire responsibility and say we are protected by some other country in some other circumstances, as seems to be the method that is so much in vogue in this country. I notice that the United States spent large sums on works of this very kind, because they enable men who are charged with certain responsibilities to lead decent lives while carrying out the duties with which they are charged.

As far as other public works are concerned, it may well be that some do not commend themselves to the hon. gentleman, but in the main under the supplementary public works estimates they were discussed in this parliament at great length, and they were passed and became part of an act of parliament. It is true there were post offices, public buildings and various kinds of assistance given to different towns and cities and communities, but in every instance where buildings were constructed they were buildings that were required. None of them are surplus; none have been said to be surplus. It may be said by some that it would give more employment and take care of more unemployed if the money were spent in some other way, but the alternatives suggested have not been such, as far as the minister or the cabinet of that time could see, as offered any greater facilities for employment than the undertakings adopted.

There was for instance a building constructed in the border cities. They were without a building; they were demanding and clamouring for one, and its construction gave employment to large numbers of men and indirectly to hundreds of others in supplying the material that went into it. As to the building here in Ottawa, despite what may be said we have in rentals paid several times over for many buildings in this city. Another unit was added to the confederation building because it was thought desirable to do so. The same may be said with respect to the building in Edmonton for the mounted police. The dominion is under contract with the province to maintain the mounted police force for the preservation of law and order in the province as well as the laws for the enforcement of which the dominion is responsible. A suitable barracks was constructed there, giving em-