

street; St. John West post office on Union street.

Mr. COPP: What is the old post office building used for now?

Mr. J. D. REID: Customs, I understand, and Public Works Engineer.

Maritime provinces generally—Dominion public buildings—improvements, repairs, etc., \$25,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I notice there is no appropriation specially for Prince Edward Island. That seems to me a great oversight. As this item relates to public works for the Maritime Provinces generally, I should like to say a word on behalf of Prince Edward Island. I appreciate what the minister said a moment ago about the Government's intention not to provide for any new public buildings this year. That being so, I should certainly take the same view as the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding); but I should like to call the attention of the minister to the necessity for a public building at the village of O'Leary and one at the town of Alberton in Prince County, Prince Edward Island. Both of these localities are important business communities and distributing centres, and there is considerable need for adequate facilities and accommodation. I should be obliged, when the minister considers estimates for public building in the future, should he ever have occasion so to do, if he would make a point of looking into the needs of both these localities.

Mr. J. D. REID: My memorandum shows that repairs in Prince Edward Island come out of this general appropriation.

Quebec—Granby public building, alterations and improvements, \$18,000.

Mr. GEO. H. BOIVIN (Shefford) (Mr. Steele in the Chair): Mr. Chairman I may not be in order in referring to the Budget debate to answer the question then put to the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster). The query was: "Where is Granby?" I will not attempt to do so because hon. members know well where Granby is situated but they may not be equally conversant with the fact that the amount mentioned in the Estimates for alterations, repairs and improvements to the public building located in that city is very urgently needed. Before I ask the hon. the minister when the citizens of Granby may expect the long hoped-for and much-needed repairs to the local post office, I might be allowed to say that this building was erected in or about the year 1900 when the population

of the village of Granby was less than 4,000. Since that time the village has become a city and now has a population of about 8,000 without taking into consideration the large farming community in the immediate vicinity. The post office has never been enlarged, and hundreds of our citizens, who desire to do so, are unable to secure and rent post office boxes. We should have a city mail delivery, but the citizens of Granby are patriotic and they realize that we must not ask for this convenience just at the present time. We have at Granby a large number of factories and the proprietors and managers of some of those more recently established have to apply to the general delivery wicket for their daily mail for the very simple reason that it is impossible for them to secure a box or drawer in the post office. The evening train arrives quite late and after the heavy mail is distributed, there is only about one half hour left to deliver the mail to the public before the wicket is closed for the night. Several merchants, and factory managers, and hundreds of citizens, are obliged to get their mail during that one half-hour with the result that the part of the building which is open to the public is absolutely packed and jammed at that particular time. It becomes absolutely unsanitary, and while our male residents fight their way through the crowd to reach their boxes or the general delivery wicket, our ladies and young girls are obliged to wait until the following day before they can secure any letters addressed to them. I cannot impress too strongly upon the department the necessity of making these repairs at once. I can assure the hon. minister that I was greatly pleased when the amount of \$6,500 was voted last year for alterations and improvements to the building but I realized then, as the department has undoubtedly since ascertained, that the amount was not sufficient and I am glad that the work was delayed until the proper amount could be voted for the purpose. If the plans are not already made, I would suggest that the post office proper be extended to the entire ground floor of the building, that the stairway be removed and that the store-room for small parcels held in bond by the collector of customs which now occupies a large portion of the ground floor be placed in the upper part of the building. I feel that without enlarging the building otherwise than by adding an extra storey to the extension, the needs of the people of the city of Granby can be met for a few years and that we may live in hopes that as