

principle. Now I have never asked them since to put that vote in, notwithstanding that it was needed. This was the report from the department. It was kept out by somebody, and not particularly in the public interest either.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Is it in this year?

Mr. CHAPLIN: No, it is not in this year; I have never asked the minister to put it in either. I knew the circumstances, I knew the situation, and I would not ask him to put it in.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Why?

Mr. CHAPLIN: For the reason given, that we can wait for such things until conditions are better.

Mr. McINTOSH: It may be a long time.

Mr. CHAPLIN: We may wait a long time, but my friend will wait longer.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): How does the minister explain that there are so many other post office items in the estimates?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend from Provencher has one impression which is not quite correct, and that is, that some communications were sent asking that the building should not be proceeded with. Let me assure him that there were no such communications. Every communication received has been along the line of urging the construction of the building. Friends of his and friends of ours and every other interest have all so represented. Then he spoke about a telegram which was not answered. I find that it was answered by a letter on a later date.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The hon. member for Lincoln substantiated the remarks I made to the effect that public money voted should be spent in the place for which it is destined. He is right. I do not care what government was in power; if money was placed in the estimates for a public building in St. Catharines and voted by parliament, that work should have been proceeded with. I have every sympathy with the hon. member; he and I are in agreement on that. The Minister of Public Works has spoken of falling revenues and the necessity for curtailing public expenditures, especially on public buildings, and he has been supported strongly by the hon. member for Lincoln. I see in the estimates for Manitoba the sum of \$25,000 for The Pas, for a public building. I have no objection to a public building being constructed there; I think it is needed. But I do not think the minister because of falling revenues can justify the application of economy to one district and

[Mr. Chaplin.]

not to another. He claims that the drop in revenues has prevented his spending \$6,500 in my district. The revenues have fallen much more since September 25, the last date I heard of this; yet we find an item of \$25,000 in the estimates for The Pas. I repeat, I have no objection to that item; at the same time, I do not think the minister is consistent. If he is going to stop the construction of public buildings because of falling revenue, he should stop it all over the country and not in one part. There is another item for Oak Lake; that item is all right because the building is under construction, but if the excuse is offered that falling revenues will not permit the construction of buildings in one part of the country, the same should apply to other parts. I know that the revenue at The Pas is more than that of the town I speak of, but I do not think the difference in revenue justifies an expenditure of \$25,000 in one place and a refusal to construct a public building in the other.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The revenues at Dominion City would not be sufficient to pay for the cost of this building, in fact would not go beyond the bare maintenance of it. The postal revenue at The Pas is \$25,526 and the custom revenue amounts to \$301,207, yet they have no public building at that point. Surely my hon. friend will agree that the cases are different.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I admitted that the revenue is greater at The Pas than it is at the place I spoke of. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin) claimed he was discriminated against in the case of St. Catharines.

An hon. MEMBER: It is on the map.

Mr. STITT (Nelson): Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might be permitted to give a few words of enlightenment to the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien). The post office at The Pas does more business in one month than the post office at Dominion City does in five years. The north country is growing continually and provision must be made for expansion. The mail for 10,000 people is handled through The Pas post office. The figures as to revenue have been given by the minister. The work of the customs department is done in a room 12 feet by 14 feet in the officer's private residence. In addition to that, we have an Indian office which administers about ten Indian reservations. We have mounted police stationed there and the officer is forced to use one of the rooms in his house for a cell. We have