

erection of that post office have yet been taken, the people of Leamington are naturally anxious to know when the Government will move in the matter. It is true Leamington is not a very large place, but if such promises were made by the hon. gentlemen they were no doubt made with the sanction of the Government, and the honour of the Government is pledged to the fulfilment of those promises. I may say that in looking over the return of post offices constructed during the last three or four years, it would seem to me that the promise made by the hon. members I referred to, does not seem to be an unreasonable one. I find that a post office was erected in Carleton, N.B., in 1883, where the total revenue from the Post office, Customs and Excise office amounted to only \$1,552. Carleton, I believe, is represented in this House by a Conservative member. The cost of the post office in that place was \$16,500. Another post office was erected in Sussex, which, I believe, is in the county represented by my hon. friend from King's, N.B. I do not know whether it was done to help him in the elections or not, but I find that it cost \$21,753, and the total revenue from the Post office, Excise and Customs amounted to the enormous sum of \$2,680. I find that in the town of Hull a post office was erected, at a cost of \$21,290, the total revenue amounting to \$1,798. In the town of Berlin, a post office was erected at a cost of \$44,600, while the revenue amounts to \$45,000. I believe my hon. friend for North Waterloo sitting on the opposite side of the House represents the county in which that money was expended. A post office was also erected in the town of Gananoque, in the county represented by another hon. gentleman on the other side, at a cost of \$8,217, while the annual revenue from that building is \$23,567. Port Hope, which is represented by the hon. member for East Durham, had a post office erected in 1883 at a cost of \$25,912, while the total revenue amounts to \$40,134. I find also that a post office was erected at Nanaimo, B.C., in 1882, at a cost of \$18,994, from which the total revenue is \$1,552. So I repeat, that in view of the fact that these post offices have been erected throughout the country at that particular time, just previous to the Elections of 1882, yielding such revenue as I have named, it was not an unreasonable promise for these hon. gentlemen to make. I think these hon. gentlemen respectively should get up and say whether they made such a promise, and if they did, to give reasons, if they can, why that promise has not been carried out.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex). I have great pleasure in tendering my thanks to the hon. gentleman for the kind attention he has paid to the county of Essex during the present Session. I trust the Government will always give proper attention to the representations of hon. members of this House, and that we will have the cordial assistance of the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) in securing the erection of this post office. I am satisfied that if one thing were wanting in order to secure that building it was the assistance of the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister); and I now appeal to the Minister of Public Works, in that gentleman's presence, in the presence of yourself, Mr. Speaker, and other hon. members, to implement any promises he may have made, to give the thriving town of Leamington a public building in the shape of a post office and Custom house. I may tell the hon. gentleman that by the manner in which he has brought forward certain matters this Session in connection with the county of Essex, he has made himself the tool and the instrument,—the unconscious instrument—for the gratification of private malice. I may also tell him, that he is talking about matters of which he has no personal knowledge. He has made charges against me in the House, although he said at the time he was making them that he had no personal knowledge of them. He made a charge against me with regard to a particular harbour of which he did not

even know the name; and on another occasion he attacked a respectable gentleman holding a public office in the county, though he did not know that gentleman's name. I say that it has been charged against that gentleman in this House, and in the press of the country that he has been shielded by the Postmaster-General because he was a Tory politician. I may say that that unfortunate gentleman never supported me when I was the candidate for the representation of the whole county, and that I am entirely disinterested in mentioning this matter, because he does not now reside in the portion of the county I represent, and never did reside there. He is not a Tory partizan, and I may say that he is so respected by the people, that living as he does on the boundary between the counties of Essex and Kent, he has represented in the County Council of Essex the old Reform township of Mersea, and in the County Council of Kent, the Reform township of Romney. That is the man whose character has been attacked because, by no fault of his, a registered letter was lost—who has been attacked in this House and in the Reform press of this country in order to make capital against the Postmaster-General. Now we have an attack made upon me and my colleague from Essex, and through us upon other gentlemen in this House, with respect to a public building at Leamington. Well, I trust that if there is anything fair or proper in the proposition of the hon. member for West Lambton, it will receive attention. I trust that there may be a public building erected some day at Leamington; and with respect to promises, I can tell the hon. gentleman that I hold myself responsible to the people of North Essex for any promise I made there or here or anywhere else. I consider myself as independent as any man who sits on either side of this House. I do not presume to dictate to the Government of the day what they shall or shall not do, and no member of that Government has ever offered to dictate to me what I shall do in this House or out of it. I am quite satisfied that the hon. member for South Essex has not noticed the attacks the hon. gentleman made on him because he considered that the proper manner of treating them was with a contemptuous silence. Now, with respect to public buildings at Leamington, I feel it due to that portion of the county of Essex, although I have ceased to represent it, to say that any promise which was made by me or by my colleague, the hon. member for South Essex, will be faithfully fulfilled to the letter; and I tell the hon. gentleman that while I might have retaliated by bringing up little instances in which he might have failed to do the duty he owed to his constituency, I refrain from doing so. I also tell him that in any matter affecting his constituency in which I can honestly and in good faith be of any assistance, I shall for the sake of my friends in West Lambton be willing to assist him to the best of my ability. I do not think that it is to the credit of the hon. gentleman, coming from a section of country whose interests are not largely represented in this House, to allow himself to be made an instrument for the purpose of creating an antagonism between different localities, instead of doing as we might, pull together for the common benefit of the people of that district. I do not know why my hon. friend has chosen to single out that county or myself for his attacks in this House. I am not aware that I have ever done anything to the hon. gentleman to cause him to attack me in the manner he has done during the present Session. I know that his visits to the county of Essex have been confined to those official visits which he has made as Crown Prosecutor, as the paid official of the Attorney General of Ontario, to do duty which the local ministers ought to perform, and which they pledged themselves in the Local House to perform when they received their increases of salary; and to that extent the hon. gentleman has taken the shilling to advocate their cause outside of this House, and possibly in it.