

she has not had anything like the expenditure in proportion that many small villages have had. I have the greatest possible respect for the opinion, the energy and the courage of the late Minister of Public Works but I would not like to follow him in all matters of expenditure, not only on buildings, but on canals, railways, harbours and wharfs. We have spent an immense amount of money that is not productive and never will be, and I would urge the Minister of Public Works to be very careful how he allows himself to be pressed by his followers or any one else into large expenditures in the towns and villages throughout the province of Ontario. I am speaking as one who does business with them. I do not care about their politics or their votes. I am here only to speak as I feel and as my experience tells me is the right thing, regardless of the effect on politics or elections or anything of that kind; and I contend that if we spend hundreds and thousands of dollars in these ways in the province of Ontario, some day, when we pass off the crest of the wave, we shall be sorry for those expenditures and regret that we have not made them in some other direction. You will excuse me for extending my remarks to this length, but I do so because I feel anxious as a business man. I know that times are good and the government are getting more money than they expected; but I tell you that now is the time to be careful. It is not when times are hard and business is bad and money is scarce, but it is when money is plentiful, when people are filled up with ozone, that you ought to be careful, and that is why I warn you that you are making a mistake in moving in the direction that you are doing, and you will be making a greater mistake if you allow the late Minister of Public Works to urge you into expenditures that are not justifiable.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. I do not mean that we should spend money without sense or reason, or erect buildings right and left without cause. But it seems to me that in government matters we should follow the same rules that are followed in ordinary business. The sense of the country to-day is that we should build well. My hon. friend in his own business has erected splendid buildings. This country is growing, and it seems to me that the government of the country should follow the course of ordinary business. I do not mean to say that we should spend money right and left, but I say that when we make up our minds to erect a public building, we should build it well. I do not mean to say anything more than that, and I believe that is a sound principle. My hon. friend has a great deal of confidence in this country. I have always found him to be a good patriot; he has always expressed himself in the House as a sound Canadian. I think I am not wrong in saying that in ten or twelve years we

Mr. BROCK.

may have 10,000,000 people in Canada, and if we are going to grow in population as fast as we all hope, let us in our policy act accordingly.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to say to my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works that I find a policy stated with a good deal of frankness on certain matters of this kind, in a journal which strongly supports the government, published in the town of Owen Sound. The editorial from which I will read was written with reference to the recent election which was in progress there. I do not think my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works had much to do with that election; some other members of the cabinet were interesting themselves more actively in it. The paper gives some names, and perhaps I had better read them first:

The members of parliament who have taken part in this campaign so far for the Liberals are Colonel Thompson of Haldimand, C. B. Heyd of South Brant; R. F. Sutherland of North Essex, and R. Holmes of West Huron, the latter being the only one remaining in the riding. Mr. Joseph Haycock, ex-M.P.P., of Frontenac, is also doing effective campaign work. On Tuesday evening, Hon. D. C. Fraser, the Guysborough giant, and Dr. Macdonald, deputy speaker, will address the electors of Owen Sound; other speakers are expected during the week.

I am glad to know that our honoured and respected Chairman was having so good a time on that occasion, in company with our hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser).

Hon. Mr. Fielding will address a meeting here on Friday afternoon, which is intended to be for those who reside out of town, and will also address a meeting of the townspeople in the evening. It is expected that Hon. Mr. Mulock will also be in the riding next week.

That, however, is only by the way. The doctrine of the government is stated here with a great deal of fulness and precision, and I am going to read it for the information of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works, who has hardly expressed himself with considerable frankness but not with the brutal frankness of the writer of this editorial:

The country has never been more prosperous than it is at this moment under the able administration of the Laurier government.—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Now, we shall see how much these hon. gentlemen will cheer something that follows, particularly the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes), who was so prominent in leading the cheering, and who took occasion to announce to the people very much the same doctrine as that set forth in this editorial:

—and the town of Owen Sound never stood a better chance of securing the expenditure of a large amount of money for the erection of public buildings and for additional improvements in her harbour. These are considerations that invariably weigh well in a by-election, and, with ordinary care, should in-