

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The amount I stated was for the building alone.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I was not in the election in West Durham some years ago, but it was there I first heard of a post office for Bowmanville. A couple of nights before the election, the friends of gentlemen opposite issued circulars to the faithful calling on them to vote for Robert Beith as member for West Durham in order that they would be in a position to appear before this government and get a post office. I would like to know if the minister could inform us who was responsible for the issuing of that circular.

Mr. BENNETT. 'Cap' Sullivan.

Mr. BEITH. I wish to state to the hon. member (Mr. Hughes)—

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Beith) will be good enough to speak to the House; I don't want to talk to him.

Mr. BEITH. I wish to say to the House that no such circulars were issued previous to my election in 1902, nor was there any promise from the government either directly or indirectly that a public building would be put up in Bowmanville. I might say to the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Brock), who asked me with regard to the necessity for a public building in Bowmanville, that prior to the Liberal party coming into power and when the government which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) had the honour to support was in office, a deputation came down from Bowmanville to interview the Conservative government, asking for the erection of a public building in Bowmanville. They were promised that building by the Conservative government, and that promise was used against me in my election.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. MACLEAN. I beg to move:—

That the Committee rise and report to the House that in the opinion of the committee the public interest would be better served by the expenditure of public money in the direction of establishing rural postal delivery routes, rather than in erecting post offices in towns of less than 3,000 population.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I agree that the question of rural postal delivery is one that is rapidly coming to the front, and under the able management of the present Postmaster General there is a probability at an early date of steps being taken in that direction; at least I hope so. At the same time that does not do away with the necessity for erecting post offices, for even if we had a rural delivery we would still want post offices. The Motion is inopportune. So far as the question of erecting public buildings is concerned it is very amusing to those of us

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

who have been in the House to hear that principle opposed by the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), the member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Taylor); the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) and the member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane), when we find from their record that they heartily supported the Conservative government in erecting post offices in towns where the revenue was only \$400 or \$500 or \$600 a year.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name one.

Mr. SPROULE. I want to tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) that I never did so in this House, and I ask him to give me his evidence that I did.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Look over the records and you will find all about it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Cayuga has been named as one.

Mr. SPROULE. Is the revenue only \$400 or \$500 a year?

Mr. CAMPBELL. Look at Laprairie and see what the revenue is. In 1892 a post office was erected there. In the county of Peel there was another post office erected in a town where the revenue was very small. There is a good deal to be said in favour of the position of the Minister of Public Works when he points out that in those counties there has been no expenditure of public money at all. In all the large cities enormous sums of money are spent, and I do not think there is any serious objection to erecting reasonably good buildings in these comparatively small places, which are important as the centres of large sections. This custom has been followed ever since confederation. The old government followed it, and they were supported by the House at that time. There is considerable to be said in favour of it, because this is the only money that can be spent in these places, and it serves a good purpose. But coming back to the motion that has been made by the hon. member for East York, even if we had rural delivery, it would be necessary in my opinion to have a post office. We have in the city of Toronto a free postal delivery, but it is found absolutely necessary at the same time to erect postal stations in different parts of the city.

Mr. MACLEAN. We want one in West Toronto and one in North Toronto.

Mr. CAMPBELL. North Toronto is not in the city, and it has not free postal delivery yet; but I suppose at an early date, when that system is adopted, it will have it. In Toronto we are spending \$20,000 or \$30,000 for remodelling the general post office; we are also erecting a postal station on Queen street west; and I believe it is intended by the hon. Postmaster General to