

Each year, at the end of the season, the cost of the winter works carried out in our municipalities is checked by experienced auditors, at least in the province of Quebec.

Well, yesterday in this house it was suggested that from now on the R.C.M.P. should make those investigations in our municipalities. This implies that the auditors in the province of Quebec are not competent to make those examinations. I strongly object to that because my municipality and surrounding ones saw, in some cases and on account of unintentional irregularities, the various government grants decrease following audits made by the provincial government authorities.

I wonder if the member for Mégantic (Mr. Langlois), when he made that suggestion, did not merely want to return to Ottawa what we now have in the province of Quebec.

I therefore hope that the Quebec provincial authorities will continue to administer the winter works program and that, as in the past, the municipalities will also endeavour to make those works as profitable as possible. I also hope that the government will consider my request for the provision of a grant for materials since that would be quite an asset not only for the municipalities but also for the province and the entire country.

Now, I do not want to repeat what has been said. I would like, however, to refer to page 5516 of *Hansard* for May 25, where the member for Mégantic stated, with regard to the Notre-Dame-de-la-Guadeloupe parish, and I quote:

Let me tell hon. members something about this municipality which might open their eyes. Within a year and a half there have been seven suicidal hangings.

Yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the local newspapers at Notre-Dame-de-la-Guadeloupe, and those of the province of Quebec and even Ontario published reports on this matter.

For instance, *Le Droit* published the following headline:

Seven suicides linked with the program—

That was in the May 26 issue of *Le Droit*.

The *Toronto Star* said:

Link winter works, suicides.

The *Telegram* said:

Village under reign of terror—

And so publicity went, not only throughout the province but across the country.

### Interim Supply

According to the *Le Devoir* of May 27, the mayor of the municipality absolutely denied those suicides, which rumour was detrimental to the good reputation of one of our neighbouring villages. And I quote:

The district coroner, Dr. Laurent Roy, physician at La Guadeloupe, has, however, denied that information. He stated explicitly that he had registered only one suicide at La Guadeloupe in his six years as a coroner, and this suicide dates back to 1962.

The parish priest also stated that, to his knowledge, there had been no suicide since the one in 1962.

And he added:

I do not know who claimed that there was such a wave of suicides in the parish, said he, but that person is talking through his hat.

Of course, he was speaking of the hon. member for Mégantic:

As for the coroner and the provincial police, they confirmed the murder.

I am somewhat concerned by that statement, because it certainly causes some pain to the families concerned. If sickness affects families, not only should we refrain from ridiculing the fact and trying to take political advantage thereof, but we should especially, I think, sympathize with these families. And I repeat that there has been only one suicide in La Guadeloupe; the other cases were distressing murder cases. As the relatives of these persons still live in La Guadeloupe, I am sure they did not appreciate or admire the behaviour of the member for Mégantic.

As can be seen in *Le Devoir*, the member for Mégantic states among other things:

Nothing has been done, claimed Mr. Langlois. The municipality is still without appropriate sewers.

Now, a newspaperman from the *Globe and Mail* went yesterday to La Guadeloupe to question the alleged informant of the member for Mégantic. Here is what he said:

[English]

Mr. Beaudoin said yesterday: "I had nothing to do with that story about the suicides."

However, he admitted that he and a few others had gathered information for Mr. Langlois. He said he had done it to block the waterworks project.

● (1:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

This means that, if there are no sewers or watermains in La Guadeloupe, it is simply because the taxpayers of that locality are entitled to their opinion, as to whether or not they choose to build waterworks. I do not think it behooves the hon. member for