

building is erected in a constituency represented by a Ministerial supporter, it is stated that he is affected by getting this building—that it is placed there for a purpose. If a building is erected in a county which is represented by an hon. gentleman opposite, then hon. gentlemen, like the hon. member for York says, here is a building like the one in the county of Antigonish, which is built for the purpose of bribing the people to vote against the present member. So that there is no pleasing them any way. If we build a post office in a constituency of a Ministerial supporter, then it is said that it is built for the purpose of unduly gratifying him, or bribing his constituency. If we build at a place which is represented by an opponent, then we are told that it is for the corrupt purpose of stealing away his constituency from him.

Mr. LISTER. I wish to say, in reply to the hon. member for North Essex, that when I introduced this subject, I had no idea at all that it was going to provoke the discussion it has, or perhaps I should have been deterred from bringing it before the House at all. I would simply say to that hon. gentleman and to the hon. member for South Essex, that while they are representatives in Parliament they do not certainly represent the great proportion of the community. Those people have a perfect right to bring their grievances before this House by any means they think proper, and they have thought proper to bring this matter before the House through me. Now, I desire to assure the hon. member for South Essex that I have now, as I always have had, feelings of the greatest personal kindness towards himself. I should be sorry to say anything that would wound his feelings on this or any other subject. But if he thinks proper to take exception to what I say in the discharge of a public duty, I can say nothing as to that. I think the hon. gentleman, however, did not do credit to himself in referring to me in the way he did. As he has withdrawn those words, perhaps I need not say anything further about them. But he made an attack on Mr. Mowat, because Mr. Mowat, not being able to attend two Assizes at the same time, thought proper to appoint me Crown Counsel in the county of Essex, and I hope I discharged the duties devolving upon me there faithfully to the Government and to the public. The reference which the hon. gentleman made to me in that regard was unworthy of him, and when he reflects upon it I am sure he will think so himself. Now, I made no complaint against the hon. members for Essex or against the Government; I simply asked for information. I asked those hon. gentlemen to say whether it was true or not that they had promised the people of South Essex that those buildings would be erected. The hon. member for North Essex, while he was willing to reply, said that the hon. member for South Essex would treat my words with contempt. It is somewhat extraordinary to me that the hon. member for North Essex should have thought proper to reply himself. I asked this question, and it has not been answered; the hon. gentleman has not stated whether he made this promise or not. If he did, he should frankly say that he did; and if he did not, he should contradict that statement. I can only repeat that I have found no fault at all with the construction of this post office, but I mentioned the fact of these post offices having been built at these small places as evidence that the statement which has been made had something reasonable about it. In the town of Sarnia, where I have the honour to reside, the Customs receipts last year amounted to \$94,646, and the place has some 6,000 inhabitants. In addition to that, we have Post Office receipts and Inland Revenue receipts; and yet the public offices in that town are a disgrace to the country. But, strange to say, a place with no more than 500 inhabitants, and yielding an annual revenue of only \$1,500, can have public buildings erected, while large and prosperous business towns in the country are denied them. I think it is the duty of the Gov-

ernment to adopt a general principle for the erection of public buildings where the business done requires them, because otherwise the Government lay themselves open to suspicion, if suspicion only, that they are putting up buildings in these small places for the purpose of purchasing the constituencies.

Mr. WIGLE. I cannot sit quietly and allow the statements made by the hon. member for Lambton to pass without notice. It appears from what he has just said, that the town of Sarnia is entitled to a post office. Well, if the hon. gentleman will look more after the interest of West Lambton and allow South Essex to look after itself, he would be better serving the interests of his own constituents. The people of South Essex are perfectly satisfied with their representative, but it appears that the hon. gentleman cannot find anything wrong in West Lambton, and he goes fishing about the country. He first took up the question of the Colchester lighthouse, and he could not find anything wrong there. Then he took up the Morrisburg post office, and he did not find anything wrong there. Then he went to the Kingsville harbour, and he found it was all right. Then he went to the Wheatley post office, and tried to insinuate that Mr. Fox, the postmaster, was not the kind of man he should be; and the very same correspondent who wrote to the hon. gentleman, sent a letter to the *Globe* newspaper stating that the Wheatley postmaster had lost a registered letter containing \$500, whereas we found out that it was less than \$100; and that the postmaster said, "as soon as I find that the letter is lost, I will pay the money," and he paid it.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member is referring to a former debate.

Mr. WIGLE. I will leave that matter, then. I have said all I care about saying in reference to it, at any rate. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman makes a motion for certain papers regarding the Leamington post office. Well, Leamington is not a large village, but it is a place where a great deal of business is done and it probably ought to have a post office. I have always urged on the Government to build a post office there, but it has not yet been built. I hope that when the village grows a little larger, it will get a post office, and I am satisfied that when it is entitled to one, the Government will give it a post office. I am responsible for the acts of the Government in South Essex, and the people of South Essex are satisfied; and I say that I never promised South Essex a public institution of any kind in any election I ran in that constituency. I am perfectly independent, and I think the people of South Essex will not thank the hon. gentleman for poking his nose into that county. If the hon. gentleman wants any information with reference to that county, he can get it at any time by asking its representatives; and if he wants us to assist him in promoting the interest of his constituency, all he has to do is to come to us and say so, and we will be happy to assist him. But if he keeps fishing around, as he has done in South Essex, the people of that district will not think as much of him as they have hitherto done.

Motion withdrawn.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY FREIGHT CHARGES.

Mr. INNES moved for statement of the amount of freight charges of the Intercolonial Railway against the Londonderry Steel Works of Nova Scotia, for each of the years 1879 to 1883, inclusive; the amount paid on account thereof in each of such years, with dates of payment; the amount remaining due in respect of each of such years, and the security therefor, with copies of all correspondence as to such arrears.