

than are paid in the Province of Ontario. The doctrine to be laid down by hon. gentlemen opposite is that all the public money will be distributed in the Province of Ontario first, and then if there is some left we will have it in the Province of Quebec.

Mr. LISTER. No one said that.

Mr. OUMET. That is the doctrine preached by the hon. gentleman from York (Mr. Mulock) with his solemn utterances; I was going to use another adjective instead of "solemn" which would qualify his remarks as they ought to be qualified. And I repeat it again, that I never said that I would favour the expenditure of public money in the Province of Quebec more than in Ontario or any other province, and so long as I have the honour to occupy the position which has been confided to my trust in this very important department, I will do what is fair to every province. I would be ashamed if I had not the necessary strength to claim justice and fair-play for my own province, and the hon. member for York (Mr. Mulock) may scorn if he likes after that.

Mr. MULOCK. The hon. gentleman in his concluding remarks has given expression to a declaration of principle, but, unfortunately, he gave himself away before that. He as much as stated that it would be twenty years before he could justify the transaction he is putting through the House to-night, if any sound principle of expenditure was adopted.

Mr. OUMET. I have not said anything of the kind.

Mr. MULOCK. He was compelled to ask Parliament to-night to consent to an expenditure that he could not defend, and he was unable to explain why the town of Woodstock, one of the most important in Ontario which gives a postal revenue of \$15,000 a year, was left without a post office, while the village of Laprairie, that does not pay one-fortieth of this revenue into the treasury, has got one. Is that what he calls equity and fair-play to all the provinces? I would like to ask him to explain his view of that doctrine of equity which he is going to bring to bear on the administration of his department. It is well enough for him to declare in loud and vigorous language that he is animated by a generous and fair spirit to all the provinces; but by your fruits we shall know you. It will not do for the hon. gentleman to wind up with a general profession of honesty when his acts are wholly inconsistent with any such profession. I ask him again, in conclusion, if he proposes to administer his department on that principle, how does he justify what he is doing in the Province of Quebec to-night, and what he is refusing to do in the Province of Ontario?

Mr. LANDERKIN. I think it is about time we got down to business and stopped these recriminations. Let us try to find out the ground on which this post office is being built at Rivière du Loup.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That item has been carried. We are on the St. Henri post office.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I presume that I shall be pardoned if I just refer to that, because I did not know that it was carried. I wish to state that in 1871 the population of that place was 1,174, in 1881 it was 1,280, and in 1891 it had fallen away to 788,

Mr. OUMET.

a reduction of 500. This just shows that wherever the Government are erecting post offices, they are driving the people away, and it is about time this policy was stopped. I think we shall have to have a change in the head of this department. The hon. Minister has shown such fighting qualities to-night that I think we had better put him at the head of the Militia Department. I do not think he should any longer blush unseen in the Public Works Department, but we should transfer him at once and get a milder man to take his place—a gentleman like the hon. Minister of Militia with a calm and even temper, who maintains his dignity and never gets angry even under the most galling criticism. It does seem singular that the hon. Minister, in discussing these matters to-night, should strive to create provincial feeling. I am surprised at a Minister of the Crown appealing to parish politics on this vote, and I am also surprised at the Minister of Customs saying "hear, hear" to these parish politics. The hon. gentleman should rise above that ground and display a national spirit in these matters. I hope the Minister will show himself to be above provincial politics by granting all contracts and public moneys on the ground of the public interest, whether in Quebec or in any other province. The members on this side of the House are bound to give fair-play to every province in the Dominion, and to judge every question on its merits.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I think it is to be regretted that a Minister of the Crown should introduce provincial politics into the discussion of the questions before us. If I understood the Minister aright, he was justifying this vote on the ground that the Province of Quebec should have some money expended in it. Who said it should not? But he has given himself away; he has confirmed the view the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock) took of his conduct in this matter, when he said that if he were to give the towns in the Province of Ontario their rights to which they are entitled in equity, the resolution which we are asked to pass to-night could not be granted for twenty years. Yet he considers it consistent with his duty, just because this is for the Province of Quebec, to do that injustice. He does more than that; he does what is a most unworthy thing, in my judgment; he tries to arouse the feelings of the members from Quebec Province to justify a vote that could not be justified on its merits, by alleging that an attack was made on his province, which was utterly incorrect. The members from the Province of Quebec have condemned some of the votes which we have passed just as much as members from other provinces, and on the same grounds. If he wishes to have the expenditure of this money in his own province, what the Liberal members from that province say is that he should give it to the towns which, by their importance and the revenue they return, demand consideration at the hands of the Government. But he has not done that. It is not necessary to institute a comparison between towns in Ontario and the town of Laprairie in order to make out a case. He has a case made against him when he passes over towns, of far greater importance and far larger revenue in his own province, and what the Liberal members point out is that he is disregarding principles of right and equity in the grants which he is asking us to sanction to-