

always done with public works. They asked at first for a certain sum for the preliminary works, and it is well known that generally a public building costs from \$10,000 to \$20,000. As I said before, these hon. gentlemen were afraid of Mr. Doyon's reproaches, and I think it was well they did not raise their voice against the vote, for he would have scolded them pretty thoroughly. Mr. Doyon might have ceased supporting them, for he would have regarded that as a shameful meanness, and in his energetic language would have branded them with epithets which would have brought the blush to the faces of many of them. As I established at the beginning of my remarks, the Province of Quebec has only its share, its first share of public buildings. I do not see why my hon. friends of the Opposition, especially those from the Province of Quebec, find fault with the Government's policy, since all those who took the floor to blame the Government for building this post office at Laprairie, ask for similar buildings for their own counties. A large number of these gentlemen have had the satisfaction of meeting justice at the hands of the Government, of having public buildings erected in Liberal counties, like St. Hyacinthe, Richelieu, now represented by a member who defends with vigour the principles of his party and who sits with the Opposition. I could mention other counties besides. Joliette, for instance, which is also represented by a Liberal. No, Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. members of the left would do much better to show a little more consistency, and, a number of them, to show less party spirit, and to accept for the Province of Quebec what is granted by the Government. If they are serious when they ask for those public works for their counties, they must give their support to the present vote for Laprairie. For otherwise we must believe, and will necessarily believe, that if the hon. gentlemen were at any time replaced by supporters of the Government, their former friends would join their new friends to blame the Government for having granted them what they ask to-day. I say, therefore, that if hon. gentlemen want to obtain justice for their counties they must reflect that they should not themselves deny justice to the County of Laprairie. And I say particularly to the hon. members for the Province of Quebec that they must not fight the grants which are made to our province, for although I do not wish to blame the Government, we are not spoiled, and as Mr. Doyon said, neither the Government which represented the opinions of my friends of the left, nor that which to-day presides over the public affairs of the country, have spoiled the electors of the Province of Quebec by undue favours. I, therefore, hope, Mr. Chairman, that in the future we will not be stopped by the obstructive policy of hon. members of the left, and that when the principle of a grant shall have been accepted as was done for Laprairie when that county was represented by a Liberal, for fear of hurting his political interest and to injure him in election time, this principle shall not be fought thereafter. When virtue has weakened like this, it should not put on such an austere face.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. (Translation.) Yours, then.

Mr. DUPONT. (Translation.) You are the ones who parade a scandalized virtue.

Mr. OUIMET. (Translation.) No; they parade what takes the place of it.

Mr. DUPONT.

Mr. DUPONT. (Translation.) My hon. friends of the left must not on this occasion lay claims to an unyielding virtue, when their record shows that, in many instances, when their political interests required it, they bent their knees before the ministerial policy.

Mr. OUIMET. (Translation.) I will add a word to what has been said by those who preceded me. I understand that when the execution of this work was decided upon, there were other places which could have claimed, with better reasons, similar improvements, but the question was decided then, and there only remains now to carry out the work. I hope that my colleagues have not been unsettled by the arguments of the members of the Opposition. Those who have followed this debate know that the main argument offered by the hon. members of the Opposition during this discussion, touched in no way the matter in question, but was confined to one point, namely, that the Government should not have undertaken this work, because the revenue from the Laprairie post office is not large, or equal to that of many others, or else should give post office buildings to all other places having revenues as large as Laprairie's or larger. My hon. friends forget the fact that if the Government were to grant post office buildings to all these places, they would enter upon a course of exceedingly large expenditure.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. (Translation.) We say that the Government should not have begun by a locality which gives such a small revenue as Laprairie. To avoid the danger the hon. Minister speaks of, and to meet our argument, he had only to commence by the places the revenues from which are larger than that from Laprairie. If he is to follow this precedent he will build at least fifty post offices in the Province of Quebec alone. If the Government want to give post office buildings to those localities, let them do so, but let them adopt at the same time an equitable basis of allotment; let the County of Montmagny be on the same footing as that of Laprairie. We do not object at all to see the Province of Quebec have its share of these public works. On the contrary we want to have them. We want an equitable rule for all. I will say to the hon. member for Bagot that if the town of St. Hyacinthe, of which he spoke, has had public buildings, the Government took good care to deprive the member of that county of any merit in the matter.

Mr. DUPONT. (Translation.) It has had its post office. I said nothing else.

Mr. CHOQUETTE. (Translation.) Does the hon. member mean to say by this that it is the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe who obtained it?

Mr. OUIMET. (Translation.) Do you mean to say that the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe opposed it?

Mr. CHOQUETTE. (Translation.) No; but I mean to say that the hon. member for Bagot has always pretended that it was not the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe that had obtained it, but that he himself had been the one to obtain this for the town of St. Hyacinthe. I now ask the Government to say whether or not it was at the request of the member for St. Hyacinthe that the thing was done?