

ing more children. Well, I am proud to say that there is one redeeming feature about this county which seems to justify the vote. It appears that there were 357 families in the county of Glengarry, and since the census the population has increased nearly a thousand; so that during eighteen months every family must have had triplets. Glengarry is a Scotch county, and therefore we may congratulate ourselves that in this county at least the Anglo-Scotch race is not degenerating.

Mr. BENNETT. The case is somewhat different from a case we had last night. The contract has not yet been let, neither has the site been purchased. Now the hon. member for Glengarry states that a lot was offered to the department at \$2,000, and having a frontage of 66 feet, that means \$30 a foot. From the fact that one of the most desirable and eligible sites in this thriving town of Alexandria is only worth \$30 a foot, I think the minister will hesitate whether to go on with such an expenditure. What is the minister going to do, backed up by his associates at the Council board? I find on reference to the report of the Postmaster General that the postmaster of that town is allowed now for rent, light and fuel, \$120 a year. Now is the minister going to invest the large sum of \$17,000 in that building? That is the proposition, and we know it will mean \$20,000 before it is finished. When we consider the site at \$2,000 it means about \$100 interest on the money invested. Now add to that what must be added in every one of these public buildings, the annual maintenance, add the charges of the caretaker, and I suppose he will not sell his services for less than men are paid in other places, and that means a cost of \$400 a year. I do not know whether there is in this enterprising town an electric light, but assuming there is, that light will cost another hundred dollars. Then let us add to that the sum of \$175 or \$200 a year for heating, and we find a grand total of \$1675 a year as the actual cost to this country. Surely the Minister of Public Works is going to hesitate before asking the country to incur an annual expenditure of upwards of \$2,000 a year where to-day we are getting a sufficient service for \$120 a year. The hon. gentleman who represents that riding does not show that the present accommodation at this post office is inadequate. If it is inadequate then it behooves the Postmaster General to ask the postmaster there to make the needed enlargement. Are we going to lay down the principle that in a town of less than 2,000 people there is to be an expenditure every year of \$2,000 to maintain a service that is now carried out for \$120? No doubt the Minister of Public Works is beset by party exigencies, and I concede that he has made out a fairly strong case. Now how does the hon. member for Glengarry compare to-day with the gentleman who preceded him? Col. Mc-

Mr. GOURLEY.

Lennan was not able to impress upon the late Conservative administration the necessity of a reformatory in that part of the province, and had his wishes prevailed with the present government a large building would have been erected there. But the hon. gentleman who now represents that riding has no such large ideas. I have no doubt the establishment of a large building at this point would have served very useful ends, but he says: My constituents will be satisfied with securing the expenditure of a smaller sum of money. And if the hon. gentleman gauges the intelligence of his constituents in this way, I am sure no one else will grumble. The Minister of Public Works is laying down this principle to-day that he is going to saddle this country with an annual expenditure of \$2,000 to meet a service that is now carried on for \$120. I say he should hesitate. He cannot make flesh of one riding and fish of another. Surely he is not going to say to the Conservatives that because they send a Conservative to this House they cannot have a public building; and he is not going to say to the Liberals on the other hand: Provided you send a representative to support this administration you can have a public building.

Mr. BRODER. As the government propose to establish a post office in the small town of Alexandria, I think it my duty to speak for the town of Morrisburg. It is easy to understand why the hon. gentleman is anxious to have this post office built at Alexandria. There is no doubt what is the real reason when hon. gentlemen opposite got into power in 1896. There was material on the ground to build a reformatory, and they saw fit to take it, and now offer these people a peace offering in the shape of a post office. It is not a post office, it is a peace offering. The town of Morrisburg has a revenue of something over \$3,400, while the town of Alexandria, with all its prosperity, has only some \$2,600, then there is a double reason why the town of Morrisburg ought to have a post office and custom house. They have a rented building for the custom house as well as for the post office. There is a stronger reason why Morrisburg should have a public building. If you want a stronger reason I am sorry to say that I can give it to you in the fact that there is a large Grit majority and if there is any shrinkage in the town that is the reason for it. There is the strongest reason why hon. gentlemen opposite should do something for their friends in Morrisburg and I do not suppose that they would care who the medium was if they got from their friends here what many of them would like to see—a reasonably valuable building. We do not ask more. If Alexandria is worth \$17,000, Morrisburg ought to be worth \$20,000. Hon. gentlemen opposite have gone away from a settled principle which was generally adopted in this country of not erect-