

and the warden wrote to the Minister of Public Works to find out the terms on which the county should have the use of these rooms. This was over a year ago, and he has had no reply. I am not censuring the Minister of Public Works. I am glad that so much money has been expended there, because if the principle that has been insinuated guides the Government in the expenditure on public buildings, I am very glad that I happen to be an exception, and that over \$5,000 have been spent in a county which sent an opponent of the Government to this House.

Mr. DAVIES. I have no complaint to make that a public building has not been erected in my county town, but I complain that the Government, having had a first class building handed over to them, have managed to burn it down. A few years ago a building was handed over to the Government as a public building. It was roofed with slate and was well protected against fire. The workmen were demanding a National Policy, there were plenty of men out of employment, and in order to give them employment—so it was rumoured—the slates were positively removed from this building and replaced by wooden shingles. The Government were warned at the time that the result would be, in case a fire took place in that wooden town, that these wooden shingles would probably catch and burn the whole building down; but it was necessary to give employment to the unemployed at the time, and they went through what seems to be the ridiculous farce of removing slates and putting on wood. The other day a fire took place; the south side of the square was destroyed, and just as predicted the sparks flew over and caught these wooden shingles and the whole building, costing the Government \$75,000, was destroyed.

Mr. FARROW. This question has taken a very wide range. I suppose I represent a riding as important as any other riding represented in this House, and it is in a county as important as any other county in the Province of Ontario. I do not rise to make a charge against the Government, but I do rise to make a charge against the hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright). It is not the first time he has risen in this House to belittle his own riding, and I am very sorry for it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Explain.

Mr. FARROW. I will before I finish. I say our county is second to no county in the Province of Ontario, and the other night my hon. friend had not a good word for his own riding, which is in that county, and to-day what does he do? When this discussion is going on, when he might have put in a good word for the town of Seaforth where they have no post office, what does he do? Why, Mr. Speaker, he says that the Government ought to build a post office in Napanee. I think it would have been well, and I say it in all good nature and advisedly, if the hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) had put in a word for Seaforth, Exeter and Goderich. Those places are represented by what they call Grits, but I feel an interest in those places. The town of Wingham, which is in my riding, I hope will not be overlooked. Although I am constantly spoken of as having been an ardent supporter of the Government for a great many years—a fact which I do not deny, for I am proud of it—yet they have overlooked this nice little town, but I hope when it has grown a little larger we shall have a Government post office and Custom house combined, erected there.

Mr. VAIL. I desire to take this opportunity of saying that there is an important town in the county which I represent. A few days ago I received a letter from the inhabitants of Digby, asking me how they should proceed to bring the subject of public buildings before the Minister of Public Works, and whether it was necessary to forward a petition. I told them to send a petition by all means, and

that I was quite sure the Minister would take the matter into consideration, and if he were disposed to build post offices in any towns in Nova Scotia, the claims of Digby would be among the first considered. When the petition is forwarded I hope the hon. gentleman will consider the claim put forward, and if he will enquire into the necessities he will find they are great. Digby has no public buildings of any kind, and it is a place deserving of some Government buildings.

Mr. GORDON. The remarks made by the mover of the motion with respect to the Nanaimo post office leads me to offer a few observations in regard to that building. It has been stated that the post office revenue was only \$1,500, and that the expenditure on the building was over \$19,000. That statement is calculated to mislead the House, and if the Government were expending \$19,000 for \$1,500 revenue, I would not support their action. What are the facts? The post office building at Nanaimo is intended to accommodate the Customs, Savings Bank, Post Office and Telegraph Office, and Internal Revenue Office. The Customs revenue last year amounted to over \$34,000. I do not know what the revenue from the other branches amount to. I think the Government are perfectly justified in erecting such a building as will provide security for the books and documents of the various departments. These branches were formerly accommodated in wooden buildings, which were liable to be destroyed by fire at any time; the present building is, however, fireproof, and I think the Government were fully justified in erecting a building that will afford security to their various offices at Nanaimo.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). One of the complaints made by the mover of the resolution was, that the Public Works Department had constructed too many post offices in the country. That is not the complaint I have to make; my complaint is that they have not built a sufficient number. When the hon. Minister of Public Works comes to consider the question of providing for an increase of those valuable adjuncts in connection with the collection of public revenue, I hope he will take into his favourable consideration the claims of the town of Pembroke, in my constituency, a town of very considerable importance, where a very large amount of revenue is collected. I take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to its claims, and I venture to express the hope that when the Supplementary Estimates are submitted, it will be found that its claims have been recognized.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The hon. member for Renfrew (Mr. White) has already called my attention to the wants of the town of Pembroke, and of course those wants will have to be considered and weighed well; but I am not in a position to say what the Government may do regarding the buildings at Nanaimo. I could not exactly hear what the hon. member (Mr. Gordon) said, but I may say that I think we have done what is required at present. If the town grows by the opening of the railway, which I suppose will be the case, of course, its wants will be greater, and the Government can afford to further consider its claims. The hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail) has called my attention to the town of Digby. I do not think I have yet received the petition of which he spoke, but I shall have great pleasure in receiving it and submitting it to my colleagues. The hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Farrow) has called my attention to the requirements in his riding. It is a very important constituency, no doubt, and requires the consideration of Parliament, which, no doubt, it will receive in due time. The hon. member for Queen's, Prince Edward Island (Mr. Davies) has spoken of the building at Charlottetown, which he nearly accused us of having burnt down. I think the hon. gentleman will remember that—though if he did know it, I do not think he would have spoken as he did—when the roof was removed, it was done in accordance with a report made by the architects