

line. Now, I hope he will not mete out to me what he thought it unfair for the Conservative government to mete out to him. I hope he will not discriminate against my riding because it happens to be represented by a Conservative. That is a line of argument, that I remember, he used to use in regard to his own flourishing village. Speaking seriously, it has always seemed absurd to me for hon. gentlemen opposite, when they are criticised by members on this side, to say, in effect, 'You're another; you did it.' That is the most absurd argument that could be advanced by an intelligent man. I can understand that I may have made mistakes; I can understand that the Conservative government may have made mistakes; but I cannot see any common sense in these hon. gentlemen opposite arraigning the Conservative government before the House and country for making mistakes, and, when they themselves do the very things which they condemned in others, seek to justify themselves by the one answer, 'You did it.' That is the very height of hypocrisy. If they find they are wrong in the past, let them say frankly: We made a mistake, and we are going to take the responsibility of carrying out the principles that we condemned you for when you were in power.

Mr. CLANCY. I want to make a last appeal to my hon. friend. I have the honour of representing a riding containing two towns which are of great importance, Wallaceburg and Dresden. They are among the best business towns of the province. One yields a revenue of \$4,000 and the other of \$2,247. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he has had an application for a public building in either of these towns, such as is being built in Alexandria. Within the last year a building has been erected in each of these places costing over half a million dollars, I mean the two sugar factories. There is a sad story connected with the history of public buildings, or the lack of public buildings in the county of Bothwell. The Liberals said that when Bothwell was represented by a Liberal it was punished for thirty years for sending a Liberal to parliament. There were many salty tears shed by hon. gentlemen opposite on that ground. To-day that riding has changed its political allegiance, and it is again being punished for the same reason. I would like the hon. gentleman to tell me what solution he can offer us for this problem?

An hon. MEMBER. Suicide.

Mr. CLANCY. Well, that is probably what it is coming to, because I see in the newspapers that that riding is to disappear in the new Redistribution Bill.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I shall take a note of the two towns the hon. gentleman mentions. I would just say to the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) that he misunderstood me

altogether. In his county, if I remember right, the county town had a very fine building, and some of these places are not so favourably situated.

Mr. MACLEAN. There is an agitation in the country to-day in favour of a rural postal delivery. That is an idea that is growing rapidly in the United States, and the farmers of Canada are asking to have the same thing. This money that is now being wasted on these public buildings, if applied to rural post office delivery, would give the farmers a substantial benefit for their money. For \$500, which is the interest on these post offices, you could have four good rural postal delivery routes established; and for the money expended on thirty of such buildings, which we shall probably be asked to vote for, you could establish eighty rural postal delivery routes. That is something the people want. The government have been asked if they have a policy in regard to rural mail delivery, and they say they have it under consideration. I fear that their answer will be that they cannot afford the money. I appeal to the members of this House who come from rural constituencies to ask the government to cease wasting money in unproductive ways, and devote it to rural postal delivery. Let them at least commence with an experiment of 50 or 100 routes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Since the Minister of Public Works is receiving appeals for public buildings in towns of over 2,000 of a population, I wish to put in an appeal for the town of Durham in my constituency. It must be known to many members of this House that this is one of the most thriving and prosperous towns in Ontario, rapidly increasing in industry and population. It is very much in need of a public building of the character we are now discussing.

Mr. ROBINSON (Elgin). I do not hear the hon. gentleman complaining so much of the want of post office facilities. If it is the policy of the government to erect buildings in places of the size of Alexandria, there are several towns of that size in my constituency in need of public buildings. I will mention Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton, large and thriving villages with no public buildings. I am not anxious to have buildings erected where they are not necessary, I do not want to see public money squandered, but if we are going to squander it I want a share for my constituency.

Mr. INGRAM. The Minister of Public Works should remember that he has just now heard from an independent member of the House, and if he wants his support, let him promise him two or three post offices in his constituency.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the policy of the government with regard to building post offices?