

in order that the Province of British Columbia may have the same facilities in this respect as the other Provinces. The vote of \$16,500 for British Columbia Penitentiary is for general repairs, including a new flooring, a heating apparatus and an hospital for contagious diseases. For a Post Office and Custom House at New Westminster \$11,500 is asked, and \$4,000 or perhaps \$5,000 more will be required.

Mr. CASEY. It does not seem prudent to spend such a large sum at New Westminster in view of the size of the place, and also in view of the fact that the great-city of that district will be a few miles from that point, at Port Moody, the terminus of the railway.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There was a contract last year for the work.

107. Public buildings, repairs, furniture, heating,
&c. \$255,300

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The increased number of buildings in the Dominion makes the claims on this vote greater every year, and therefore we have to ask for \$165,000 this year for outside buildings, though hon. gentlemen will remember that when we had the workshops this vote amounted to \$225,000, and sometimes more; so that there is a saving now of \$55,000 or \$60,000. We ask for \$6,000 for the Parliament grounds, as \$4,000 was not sufficient, the expenditure last year having been \$5,924.

Mr. ANGLIN. What is to be done with the beautiful fountain in front of the main building.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is a question whether that basin should be there, or whether it would not be better to have two fountains, one at each side, and leave the place where the present fountain stands as open ground. Until that is decided, I think it better not to purchase a fountain.

108. To defray expenses in connection with the
harbors and rivers in Nova Scotia \$583,000

Mr. BORDEN. I would like to make one or two observations before the hon. member makes his explanations, as I want to refer to a few matters not mentioned before, and perhaps he will be able to answer me. Is there any general principle of public policy upon which these grants are given for wharves and breakwaters; are engineers sent impartially to the different parts of the Province in reference to these expenditures of the public money, or are they sent, and is money voted to those counties that happen to send representatives here to support the Administration? At the time of Confederation there was a question as to whether these piers should receive grants from the Dominion Government at all or not. Most of them have been constructed by grants from the Government of Nova Scotia, and the people conjointly. They were situated in districts inhabited by fishermen and seafaring people not able to keep them up. I think, in 1871 or 1872, the policy was adopted to give grants for the maintenance of those breakwaters, and in some instances for the construction of new ones. I, myself, during the previous Administration was able to get a number of grants for work of this kind in my county. Since I have made application, by petition and otherwise, to the present Administration, but never have been able to get any. I think it is proper the enquiry should be made, upon what principle these votes are given—whether the Government is justified and whether the public expects it to use the public money for the purpose of influencing the different counties in the Dominion favorably towards them or in the case where a county is represented by a member opposed to them, in attempting to punish those people for not having sent a representative to support the Administration? I think I can give a case in point. Previous to the election of 1878, in my own constituency, I had succeeded in getting the Minister of that day to set apart, out of the

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

general sums voted for breakwaters, two amounts for two places in my constituency.

Mr. BOWELL. Was that just before the elections of 1878?

Mr. BORDEN. I said before that it was. That will prove the position I am now taking.

Mr. BOWELL. It proves that is the principle on which your friends acted.

Mr. BORDEN. Two sums of \$500 each was set apart for two harbors—Baxter's Harbor and Pickets Harbor, and the engineer had recommended the expenditure, having visited the localities, but after the election, as soon as the change of Government took place, I was informed that the grant had been cancelled. Now, I think there is a case in point. Those expenditures were justifiable and they should have been carried out. But it seems because there was a change of Government, because my constituents happened to elect me opposed to the present Administration, they were to be punished by striking out these grants. At that time I called the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact, not the present hon. Minister, but the member for Cumberland, but he gave me very little satisfaction. In the early part of this Session I sent a petition to the present hon. Minister and addressed a letter to him, calling his attention to Baxter's Harbor but could get no satisfaction. I have not received even an acknowledgment of the receipt of that petition. I have made similar applications for other places in my county, but without avail. Now, my constituency is paying a very much larger amount into the revenue to-day than under the previous Administration, because taxation is higher. I think it is not fair or in the public interest, and not contemplated by our system of Government, that we should be entirely cut off from public grants because I oppose the Ministry of the day. The Ministry will find that pursuing a course of that kind will not bring about what they might desire—a change of sentiment in that constituency. I will simply call the attention of the Minister further to two applications I made the other day for surveys in that county, and I respectfully ask him to grant them during the coming summer. They will not cost much and I think it would be in the public interest to have them made.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. If the hon. gentleman's petition has not received any acknowledgment it must have been an oversight of my Department, because as a rule all letters and documents are immediately acknowledged.

Mr. BORDEN. I never received any.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am sorry; the hon. gentleman may be sure it is not intentional. I remember receiving two letters last week, when I gave orders to acknowledge them. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman has received the acknowledgment.

Mr. BORDEN. Not yet.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There is a great pressure of business in that Department, but he may be sure they will be acknowledged and considered by myself as soon as I can do so.

Mr. BORDEN. Favorably?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I will do my best, but I am now so busy in Committees all morning that I cannot spend more than ten minutes in my office every day. Then we remain in this House a little late. As to the principle of these votes, the hon. gentleman must see he is entirely mistaken if he thinks we make distinctions in favor or against a county, according to its representation. Just a minute ago we passed a vote for Moncton, which I do not think sends a member to this side of the House. It was the same thing with regard to West Hastings.