

population given for Alexandria was 1,911. There were 359 houses in the village and 378 families. It is very extraordinary if the population is increasing at the rate of considerably over 30 per cent a year. I know it was a very ambitious village and anxious to be incorporated last year. It had a special census taken and became incorporated. I would like to know if the village of Alexandria volunteered a site for this public building. I understand they are a very liberal community and would have no hesitation in providing a site. We heard nothing about this public building from 1896 to 1900, when Glengarry was represented by Col. R. R. McLennan. It is only within the last year or so since my hon. friend from Glengarry (Mr. Schell) was elected that this thing has been heard of. There are a number of villages in that section, for instance, Morrisburg, a larger village, which, no doubt, would be very anxious to see a good post office erected. If it is the policy of the government to build \$17,000 buildings in towns having a population of less than 2,000, I have no doubt these other towns would be very anxious to have them built.

Mr. BENNETT. Is the proposed site a corner lot?

Mr. SCHELL. One of the lots I spoke of is a corner lot, the other is not. Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Pringle) appears to be very much worried over this building and over the fact that nothing was done from 1896 to 1900. He knows very well, and I believe that many of the members of this House know the reason why there was no word of any post office during those years. In 1891 it was decided that there should be a Dominion reformatory built in Alexandria, and a vote was passed in this House to provide money for its construction. Before the change of government came, in 1896, the work upon that building was stopped, and when the new government came in they decided that this Dominion reformatory was unnecessary. They did not proceed to build that reformatory as it was then proposed, for what reason I shall not discuss. The fact remains that the site remained unused, and the material collected was left there. When it was decided not to build the reformatory, the people of Alexandria asked that some building should be erected there. The farm land upon which the reformatory was to have been erected, which had been bought for the benefit of some friends of the late government at more than double what it was worth, was sold. And I expect—that is the understanding, or consideration, to my mind—that the returns from that property will go back into this building. The people of Alexandria expect this post office in lieu of the great reformatory they were to have had.

Mr. PRINGLE. I am very glad to get that explanation. We see now that the

post office is not to be built because the public service requires it, but simply to please the people of Alexandria, who have been deprived of a reformatory for which a grant was passed during the time of the late government. The hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Schell) admitted very frankly that the consideration for the erection of this building was the doing away with the reformatory. I am pleased to get that explanation, that it is not on account of the public requirements, but simply to satisfy the people of Alexandria for having taken the reformatory away from them. I cannot conceive that it was for any public requirement, because the revenue from that post office was very trifling, and the building is not a necessity. However, we understand the matter now. The hon. gentleman tells us that there was a property bought at double its value. Well, I am informed that it was bought at a reasonable value, and was sold to some friends of the hon. gentleman for less than half its value.

Mr. SCHELL. That property was bought for the purpose of a reformatory, and Mr. McNeill sold the property for \$2,700 to one of the political friends of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. That party sold it to another political friend for \$3,700, and a few weeks afterwards that political friend sold it to the government for \$5,000. That is the transaction that took place in those days, that is the way they did it. When the government had possession of it, they advertised it for sale, and the best offer they got was \$1,800. I advised that the property should not be sold at that time on account of the general depreciation in value all over the country, and it was not sold. They kept it until, I think, the month of December or November last, when the property was sold for \$2,800 cash, after some of the buildings on it had been removed. I consider the property sold at its full value, sold for a higher figure than it was disposed of in the first instance when it was proposed to build a reformatory. There are other things in connection with this transaction. The hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Pringle) says he understands the reason now. Well, I have been very frank in the statements I have made, and they are the actual facts.

Mr. GOURLEY. This discussion ought not to have imported into it any reference like that made by the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Schell), because we must remember that this county was represented by a strong man, Col. McLennan, when the Conservative party were in power, and he was not able to get a post office. Now, however, we find that a large and costly post office is to be put up there. But there is one redeeming feature about it. I recollect a year or two ago, shortly after the publication of the census, one of my French colleagues reflected upon the Anglo-Saxon race in Canada—that they were not produc-