

be no further improvements of a permanent or substantial character. I visited the station myself last fall and I must say that very great improvements have been made of a very permanent kind and I should think—I can only give the information furnished me by the department—that we should expect no further requests for a large expenditure at this station for some time to come.

Mr. CLANCY. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the \$12,000 voted last year had been all expended?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes.

L'Assomption—public buildings, \$10,000.

Mr. BROCK. I see that last year \$5,000 was spent and that this year \$10,000 is to be expended. Would the hon. minister tell us what the population of L'Assomption is? The item says 'public building' but it must be for buildings, because, surely, there would not be an expenditure of \$10,000 on one building in a place like this.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I regret I could not hear all the hon. gentleman said, but I understand he asked the population?

Mr. BROCK. Yes, for the population of L'Assomption.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. In the town of L'Assomption there is a population of 1,665 and in the adjoining parish there is a population of 1,275.

Mr. BROCK. What kind of buildings are those that are being put up?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The building is to be a two and a half storey brick with stone dressings—I suppose the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) wants to know what the building is for?

Mr. BROCK. Yes, what is the purpose of it?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It is a general public building for the post office, &c.

Mr. BROCK. A town hall, or fire station? Surely, it is not for the collection of customs dues in L'Assomption?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Sometimes large customs dues are received in small places. I think, however, this is mostly to be used for a post office.

Mr. BROCK. In a town of 1,600 inhabitants, does it not strike you, Mr. Minister, that \$15,000 in two years is a very large sum to spend? I think there must be some mistake. Are they county buildings? Is it the county of L'Assomption that this building is to be erected for or is it a village building?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Their municipal constitution down there is

different from ours in Ontario. It is more for the town and the parish surrounding it that this post office is furnished.

Mr. BROCK. Does the Dominion of Canada, because there is a difference in the municipal organization, supply municipal buildings in Quebec? Are the provinces of Ontario and Quebec to supply the wealthy province of Quebec with municipal buildings? I think there must be some mistake?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I did not say a municipal building, I said a post office. I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. Brock) is right in insinuating that the province of Quebec has public buildings in small places any more than the province of Ontario has. If there is any rule it has, perhaps, sometimes been violated; perhaps, occasionally, for some reason or other, we have built public buildings in places where the population and revenue were rather small. The Committee must try and stick to the rule that the revenue and population should be taken into consideration in erecting public buildings. This rule has not been violated any more in Quebec than it has in other provinces.

Mr. LANCASTER. I would like to ask the hon. minister if a contract for this building has been let, what is the amount of the contract, and what the purpose of the building is.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The contract has been let and it is for a post office.

Mr. LANCASTER. What is the amount of the contract?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. \$10,000.

Mr. PRINGLE. I would like to ask the hon. minister what the revenue of the post office is at L'Assomption. My reason for asking is that I see an item following, No. 119, public building at the village of Alexandria, \$17,000. I suppose that also is for a post office. I would like to get an idea whether it is the policy of the government to erect \$17,000 post offices in villages throughout the different provinces. We have one in L'Assomption costing \$15,000, and one in Alexandria costing \$17,000, and I would like to know what the rule is in regard to post offices in villages of that size? It seems to me that the revenue must be very small in a village the size of L'Assomption or Alexandria. While I am asking the question I would like to ask also whether these buildings are to be used for any other purposes than that of the post office.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. It would be used for all Dominion purposes: customs, inland revenue or any Dominion service. The general policy of the government has not been changed in this respect from the past. It seems to have been the will of the majority of the House

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND.