

as a citizen of Sherbrooke, I [have] to complain that public buildings have been erected there, that is to say, they have been commenced, and the progress of construction has been continued so long that, if they are not finished soon, the people will really not be grateful when they are completed. I do not think the Government are doing this intentionally for the purpose of influencing the electors of Sherbrooke, because it is well known all over the Dominion that the people of Sherbrooke are the most uniformly sensible people that exist in the Dominion of Canada. They cannot be endeavouring to make better Conservatives of the Sherbrooke people than they now are; but, *badinage* aside, I think it has been almost as bad to have a public building erected in Sherbrooke as to have it not commenced at all. That building, which should not have cost more than \$25,000—I do not know what it cost—and which is a building of the kind that our people are in the habit of putting up in six months, has been going on for two years. The principal street of the city of Sherbrooke has been filled with lumber and material and stone and rock for two years. The building is not now completed. The progress is very slow indeed, if anything is being done, and, unless the hon. Minister takes hold of the matter with that promptness for which he is noted, it will be two years still before the public will have any advantage from that building, or will be relieved from the nuisance of having the principal street of the city obstructed with rubbish and brick and material unnecessarily. For my part, I do not want a public building built in Richmond if it is going to take two or three years to complete a building such as the people themselves would complete in six months. Our people do not take long in putting up a building of that kind, and they have an idea that the Minister of Public Works, when he undertakes to do a thing, does it promptly; and I can tell him that his reputation is suffering sadly in our part of the country from the manner in which the contract for the public building in Sherbrooke is being dawdled over.

Mr. KIRK. As this is a question in which so many members seem to be interested, it might be well for me to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister of Public Works the fact that I have presented a petition from the town of Guysboro' asking for the erection of public buildings in that town. I am not going to complain that the present Government or any Government have not done their duty in regard to erecting public building in towns, as far as Nova Scotia is concerned, because I think not only the late but the present Government have done their duty admirably in that regard. There are many towns in Nova Scotia where they have public buildings that do credit to the Government who erected them, but we have other towns that require those buildings, and the town of Guysboro' is one of them. I hope the hon. Minister of Public Works, when he brings down his Supplementary Estimates, will pay attention to the petition presented to him, asking for a sum of money to erect buildings there, and will place a sum of money in the Estimates for that purpose.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. As the hon. Minister seems to be in an unusually receptive mood, I would call the attention of the First Minister to the extreme desirability of redeeming certain promises made in his name touching the erection of a post office and custom house in the town of Napanee. I am not prepared to say that he made them, but I am prepared to say they were made for him—at least I was so assured by a great number of very highly respectable citizens of Napanee, who supported him. Now, Sir, it is rather hard that the people of Lennox, and the citizens of Napanee should lose both the First Minister and the Custom house, and I hope that justice will be done them.

Mr. ALLEN. I think the Government is justified in erecting buildings in any town where they are required. Now,
Mr. IVES.

Sir, I believe that in no town in the Province or in the Dominion can an investment be made to better advantage, in the way of public buildings, than in the town of Owen Sound. At the present time we pay rent for a post office, we pay rent for a Custom house, and for the office of Inland Revenue. I believe if the Government were to spend a reasonable amount in putting up public buildings there it would pay good interest on the capital invested. I would recommend the Government to take this matter into their serious consideration, and I hope they will see their way clear to make an appropriation for that purpose.

Mr. MULOCK. As a number of hon. gentlemen are making suggestions in the public interest I would take the opportunity of making one if I have correctly construed the principle on which these public buildings are erected. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. McIsaac) tells me that a public building was erected in his county for some purpose but that it did not accomplish that purpose. Now that is unfortunate. He has been returned as an opponent to the Government in this House. I would therefore suggest that in future these public buildings should be placed on wheels so that they could be removed from place to place in case they do not serve the purpose for which they were erected.

Mr. McISAAC. I hardly feel obliged to my hon. friend beside me for making a reference to the building in my county. He asked me whether there was any building in my county about which I had any complaint to make, and I told him that I was fortunate in that a building was purchased there in 1881 and converted into a public building. But I have this to complain of, that the building is not yet finished. I had nothing to do with it. It was my opponent who, in the interest of the county, I presume, and particularly in his own interest, carried on negotiations with the Government for securing that building. That building was purchased in 1881, and somewhat over \$5,000 have been voted in two instalments since, but I am sorry to say that it remains in pretty much the same condition it was at first. It may be finished by this time although that is rather a long time to finish such a building. It is about in the same condition as the building referred to by the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives). During the past two summers a load of brick has been hauled on to the spot every month or two, and a load of sand in another month, just enough to say that the work is going on. I hope no further time will be lost. I call upon the Minister of Public Works to see that it is finished immediately; and I may tell him also that the plans according to which portions of the building are fitted, are anything but satisfactory. The result is entirely too small, and there are other arrangements which are unsatisfactory for county purposes, and I consider it a great pity that so much public money should be expended in the way it has been. It might be expended to better advantage to the county, and, perhaps, to better advantage to the gentleman who had the superintendence of the expenditure—that is my opponent at the last election. I do not know whether it has done him any good. I have nothing to say against the gentleman. However, he did not happen to come here. I see by the return referred to by the mover of this motion that large sums have been expended on public buildings in counties where the revenue was not nearly as large as in my county; and I hope the Minister of Public Works will take means to ascertain how this work is being done, and that if further money is voted, and it ought to be voted, it will be more properly expended than the money voted in the past. I see by the papers brought down the other day, that the warden of the county was in correspondence with the Minister of Public Works but received no reply. Two or three rooms in the building were offered for county purposes