

first promised that the building would be erected without any delay. They won the election, but nothing was done. In 1925, feeling that they had to do a little more, the late Mr. George Boivin, then member for Shefford, recommended to the government the purchase of a lot belonging to Mr. H. Forand of Waterloo for the erection of a post office. Eventually the land was purchased for the sum of \$3,650, which was paid by cheque to the order of Mr. Forand and two other parties. I must say, however, that according to the registers of the town of Waterloo, as they actually stand, this piece of land appears to be still in the possession of Mr. H. Forand. But in the meantime the sum of \$3,650 appears to have been divided among three ardent friends of the previous administration whose names I shall not mention. In 1927, in spite of the fact that land had already been sold to the government and paid for, some other political friends of the then administration decided to try to sell another site for the erection of the post office adjoining the one already purchased by the government. Consequently under the recommendation of an officer of the Department of Public Works, Montreal, and of the ex-member for Shefford, Mr. Boivin, another piece of land was sold to the government, this time for the sum of \$7,500.

Mr. POULIOT: Is Waterloo in Témiscouata county?

Mr. TETREAULT: No, I was just referring to the challenge the hon. member was trying to make of the administration of this department, I am just bringing before the committee what was done under the previous administration.

This sum, added to that already paid for the first lot purchased, makes a total of \$11,150 for the land only, paid by the then government to its political friends in Waterloo. I may say that at the time the department could have purchased the nicest property on the main street of Waterloo for less than this amount. In this respect perhaps the house will be interested to know the exact value of the property sold to the government for that sum of \$11,150. I communicated with Notary A. Boulay, secretary treasurer of the town of Waterloo, asking him the valuation of this land according to the municipal roll. This was his reply, under date of February 17, 1933:

Replying to your inquiry of the 15th instant, I must state that when the government purchased the piece of land on which the post office was erected, the said lot was assessed at \$800 by our municipal appraisers.

I was not satisfied with the answer, for of course, I know that under the previous administration everything was done honestly and without any political interference whatever, so I took it upon myself to write again. I said this secretary must be wrong, because I heard the hon. member for Témiscouata finding fault with everything done by this government—

Mr. POULIOT: Not everything.

Mr. TETREAULT: I wanted to find out if there was anything wrong with this reply, so I wrote a second letter to Mr. Boulay, for more precise information. This was his reply:

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more precise figure, as this lot has not been valued after the sale of a part thereof to the government. Before this piece was taken off, the Forand property was valued at \$1,000, and the property purchased from Mr. Whitehead at \$800. In order to get the exact figure it would be necessary to subtract from the sum of \$1,000 the value of the piece of land remaining to Mr. Forand, and this represents the largest piece thereof.

This means, in a word, that land estimated at somewhere around \$800 by the municipal appraisers was sold to the government at the price of \$11,150. This statement needs no further comment.

In 1929, just before the 1930 election, the party decided that it was time to build the post office which had been promised during the two previous campaigns. We have heard something in this house during the last three years about the election of 1930. I would like to remind my hon. friend what was done just before the election of 1930. The party decided that it was time to build the post office. An amount of \$21,000 had already been voted for that purpose, therefore our friends proceeded with the enterprise. If we look up the records of the department we find that many friends of the then administration were interested in that building. My hon. friend had three, one father and two sons, interested in this work under the Public Works department.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask my hon. friend if the post office was built?

Mr. TETREAULT: I will tell you when it was built. They have bought the land now.

Mr. POULIOT: Why was it not built? On such expensive ground it should have been built at once in order to make use of the site.

Mr. TETREAULT: I will let you know exactly about that. First the hon. member for Sherbrooke recommended the architect