

him to give us correct information, but, at the same time to encourage him to give us all he can. I will follow that Cayuga business for just a few more items. For instance, I find here expenditures amounting to \$721 including repairs, polished brass door handles, oak grill and corners and so on. This post office at Cayuga was not supposed to be costing anything more than the ordinary expenditure, but last year, by the Auditor General's report there was this expenditure of \$721 including caretaker. This is an instance in which the Minister of Public Works might perhaps do better than rely entirely upon the hon. member for Haldimand for information to be given to this House. I do not know what this expenditure would have been if the hon. member (Mr. Thompson) had been at home. He was away in England—properly enough, no doubt. But, in his absence, or before he went or after he came back, these expenditures of \$721 of which he knew nothing, took place. I would almost be inclined to urge the Minister of Public Works to keep the hon. member at home so that he may look after some of these expenditures. I trust that when we come to the Postmaster General's estimates he will move to strike out some of these amounts as being improper. He had better find out who this G. A. Gibson is and make him refund that \$50, as he is not a caretaker in a regular sense and has no right to it according to the statement of the hon. member for Haldimand.

Mr. TAYLOR. If I understood the hon. member for Glengarry—and I would like to ask if I did correctly understand him, for I have no wish to misrepresent him—he told us that before the item was put into the estimates last year to buy the site a census had been taken of the village of Alexandria. That census had been taken by the authorities there and they made the number something over 2,800, if I understood him correctly.

An hon. MEMBER. It was circus day.

Mr. SCHELL. 2,280.

Mr. TAYLOR. I understood him to say 2,800. An hon. gentleman suggests that the census was taken while a circus was in town. I think I must have understood the hon. gentleman correctly, because his figures showed an increase of about 1,000, for someone who followed him asked if the place had increased eight or nine hundred in a year. I would like to ask if the census was taken prior to the \$7,000 being put in the estimates last year to purchase a site?

Mr. SCHELL. No, that census was not taken prior to the \$7,000 being put in the estimates. The census was taken by the authority of the reeve and council, and taken under oath, as the census of that kind must always be, as the hon. member (Mr. Taylor) probably knows, and the statement

Mr. LANCASTER.

was forwarded to Toronto with the request that the place be incorporated as a town.

Mr. BENNETT. At what time of the year was it?

Mr. SCHELL. It was in 1902, I think in September or October.

An hon. MEMBER. Was there a circus there then?

Mr. SCHELL. No, there was no circus.

An hon. MEMBER. Was there a fall fair on?

Mr. SCHELL. No, there was no fall fair.

Mr. PRINGLE. Before the item passes I wish to place myself fairly on record with regard to this matter. Personally if it is the policy of the government to erect a seventeen thousand dollar building in towns of less than 2,000 population, there is no county outside of the county of Stormont in which I would rather see those buildings erected than in the county of Glengarry. I raised this question largely to ascertain from the government what their policy was in regard to the erection of post offices. I understood from the hon. member from Glengarry that it was not erected because the public service required it, but it was erected in consideration of the government having deprived the county of Glengarry of the reformatory for which an estimate was passed during the term of the late government. But, though I desired to ascertain the policy of the government, I have not ascertained very clearly what they intend to do with regard to post offices in towns the size of Alexandria.

Mr. INGRAM. I understood the Minister of Public Works to say something about a free site. Is it the policy of the government to get free sites for all the public buildings that are erected? What free sites have already been given?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am sorry I have not the list of sites that have been given, but I know that such things have been done.

Mr. COCHRANE. I would draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works to the fact that in the riding I have the honour to represent there is a large, flourishing town by the name of Campbellford. It has a population of between two and three thousand. It is a manufacturing town and I think the ex-Minister of Public Works (Hon. Mr. Tarte) will bear me out in saying that it is one of the busiest and most flourishing towns in eastern Ontario. I am not opposing the government in building post offices, but I think we should have some mode under which the population of the places in which these buildings are to be erected should be taken into consideration, and not show partiality. I can remember very well when the Minister of Public Works was in opposition, I used to hear considerable from him on that