

Business of the House

in my riding, more specifically in the parish of St. Pie de Bagot. I can only mention the matter this evening, since I will have an opportunity later on to discuss it when we examine the various estimates of the department.

As I have not as yet succeeded in securing a satisfactory reply from the Department of Justice, I would appreciate it if the Minister of Public Works, who is undoubtedly aware of the situation, since it is his department which acquired the land, would supply me with certain information.

For instance, what use will be made of that land which was purchased at the price of \$83,000? What are the reasons which motivated the transfer of the proposed penitentiary to another riding?

I feel that the question concerns the minister since the construction of penitentiaries comes under his department.

In view of the fact that I have been unable to get a satisfactory reply from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chevrier), I hope the Minister of Public Works will be more co-operative than his colleague and provide me with all the information I am entitled to since it would be interesting to know why, after last April 8, it was suddenly decided to give up the proposed construction of a penitentiary at St. Pie de Bagot.

Mr. Chairman, I have here some documents which prove without question and according to the plans of the Departments of Justice and Public Works, since there is a double jurisdiction in the matter, that the work should normally be under way. Why has it not started? I was unable to find out up to now, and I ask the minister to tell me.

With further reference to the selection of inspectors and to their duties, I would like the minister to tell me also whether the inspector who represents the federal government on the building site of a retaining wall must remain on the spot or whether he may stay away and, in that case, for how long during the day. I am asking the minister whether an inspector may leave his job and meet at the same time the requirements of the Department of Public Works.

If I seek that information, it is in the interest of the Department of Public Works and of the general public. In fact, I would say that in order to do his work properly, a supervisor should be on the site all day long and not only part of the time.

The answers to those few questions will put me straight and enable me, at the same time, to relay information to those who ask me for it, because I make it a point to keep the minister aware of the way the work is proceeding with regard to the erection of the

retaining walls. Those are all questions that people are asking themselves.

I would not want to offend the minister but I must tell him that patronage is being practiced on a large scale and that probably he would not put up with it if he really wanted to stop it. However, I feel duty bound to tell him. A lot of patronage is going on now with regard to the work at St. Charles and at St. Denis sur Richelieu. I would not want to stir up memories, but—

Mr. Drouin: I understand why—

Mr. Deschatelets: May I ask a question of my hon. friend?

He just mentioned the work under way concerning the sustaining walls. The hon. member asserted that some sort of patronage was taking place. I would like to have more details in order to be able to reply adequately. I do not suppose my hon. friend would make such assertions without knowing certain facts. I ask him then to give me a few facts.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I would have preferred not to mention that. I merely wanted to warn the minister in private. But since he raises the question, I have no alternative but to justify my allegations.

I will refer to letters which I wrote to him under date of June 24, concerning the appointment of inspectors. I recommended three persons for St. Denis and St. Charles, but none of them was hired. Those who were hired as inspectors had been recommended by Liberal organizers in both the above-mentioned villages. This is one example, Mr. Chairman. If you want more I could state others because, in my opinion, one can achieve the same purpose without bringing up the past.

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Chairman, before starting my remarks I should like to congratulate the Minister of Public Works on his appointment to this department.

Mr. Chairman, may I call it 10.30?

[Text]

Item stands.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: In the absence of the leader of the house I think I can get a short answer tonight. My question is simply this. Will the business for Monday and Tuesday stand as already announced?

Mr. MacNaught: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

It being thirty minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put.