

expenditure; and if the Province will endeavor, as it seems inclined to do, to limit its disbursements to the smallest possible amount; and Parliament should be satisfied with their exertions, and that the representations they make are correct, then it is fair to consider what should be done under such circumstances. I don't know that I have anything further to add to-day. Upon all the measures of the Government I shall endeavor to be as explicit as possible in giving explanations; and while it may be quite true, as the right hon. gentleman remarked, that we are not lying upon a bed of roses, his statement, which of course he makes with the greatest possible regret, that troublesome thorns are causing us some uneasiness, will not hold. At any rate, I hope the right hon. gentleman's prediction will not seriously affect our peace, or seriously disturb the bed of roses which it seems, although his remarks would make it appear otherwise, he was very loth to leave when in power. I am very much obliged to the hon. gentleman for the terms of his speech, and hope we shall endeavor to conduct the business of the session with that moderation which the right hon. gentleman has initiated to-day.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON — Mr. Speaker, I desire to call the attention of my honorable friend, the First Minister, to a matter of very grave importance which has stirred the public mind, in the Province from which I come, to its very depths during the last two weeks; and before the first step in the business of legislation is taken in response to the speech, I think it but fair to him and to those who support him on the floor of this House, that he should be given an opportunity of making the explanation, which I am satisfied in my own mind he will be able to give, and which will be received by the country, or, at all events, by his friends, with the utmost satisfaction. I allude to the speech, which I cannot but characterize as an unfortunate one, made by the Postmaster-General in a neighbouring county not many weeks ago. The Postmaster-General was undoubtedly, and it was quite proper, detailed by my

hon. friend, the First Minister, to explain the policy of the Government and to promote the interests of the Government in an important election then pending in the County of Argenteuil. Nothing can be more proper, Sir, than that a prominent public man should go into a county on an occasion of that kind to explain the policy of the Administration. It is perfectly consistent with the whole course of politics in this country and in other countries enjoying constitutional government. Well, if the Hon. Postmaster-General had defined or explained the general policy of the country (I had not the good fortune to hear him), we have never been made aware of it. But a passage of his speech was carefully reported and sent to the press of the country, by telegraph, in which he is represented to have made a very offensive attack upon the dignitaries of the Church of the great majority of the people of the Province of Quebec, and constituting a very large proportion of the people of this whole Dominion. He is reported to have made an appeal to the Protestants of Lower Canada, not as politicians or on political grounds, or the approved policy of the Government of which he is a member, but as Protestants, to effect objects I need not further describe. And he wound up that speech, Sir, by a declaration that these were his opinions, and that he was satisfied that they were the opinions of his party; and if he were not sustained in the expression of those opinions he would resign his position. Now, Sir, the whole importance of that speech arises from the circumstance that the hon. gentleman is a member of the Administration. If it had been made by a private member of either political party, certainly I, for one, would never have challenged the attention of the House to it. The whole importance of the hon. gentleman's utterance arises out of the fact that he is a member of the Administration. Two questions arise, and I desire to put them to my hon. friend with the utmost directness, being persuaded that he will answer them with the utmost directness. First, whether when the Postmaster-General left Ottawa, he had any inclination or had