

I might secure something for my riding. I am perfectly frank; will the minister be equally frank in telling me what justification there is for spending \$12,000 for a post office in a little place of 500 inhabitants, while other places from the Atlantic to the Pacific with two or three times that population are ignored? The minister says, you have to take into consideration the surrounding country. Well, invariably there is country surrounding every town and village, and Kensington with a population of 500 is not the only place so surrounded. I should like to shake hands with the member for the constituency in which Kensington is situated. What particular pull has he got on this government to be able to draw \$12,000 out of the treasury for a post office in a little village of 500 population, while other parts of the country have never had a dollar spent on them since confederation and have to wait for favours until they smile in such a way as to suit hon. gentlemen opposite?

Mr. ROBB: Mr. Chairman, I sympathize with the viewpoint of my hon. friend from Frontenac. I represent a constituency that has received no public buildings since confederation—a very good constituency too.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): But the difference between my hon. friend and myself is that while his constituency may be in the same position as mine in not getting anything for public buildings, yet look at what it is getting through the salary that its member is pulling down?

Mr. ROBB: Would you not like to do that?

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Yes, in three or four years we may change places, and then my turn will come. But that does not answer my question. Seriously, what are the grounds to justify \$12,000 being spent at this particular spot in these very hard times?—because the minister always puts up that plea, lack of money.

An hon. MEMBER: The building is needed.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): No, it cannot be from the standpoint of need, because if that place needs a post office, there are other places of larger population and providing much more postal revenue that have waited a longer time to get justice. I appreciate the fact that during the period of the war lots of public works had to be left in abeyance, but now the time is come when this or any government that may be in power ought to consider seriously the fact that

[Mr. J. W. Edwards.]

many places throughout the country have waited during those years of the war and do deserve some consideration for the length of time that they have waited. I want to see fair play all round. Will the minister answer my question: What are the reasons why Kensington is treated in this favourable manner while other places with stronger claims are passed by?

Mr. MacLEAN (Prince): Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend from Frontenac said he would like to shake hands with the member who represents the county in which Kensington is to be found. Well, if he will just come across the floor and up this aisle I shall be glad to shake with him. This vote is being considered by the House because, although the population of this little town may not be quite sufficient to meet the requirements for a public building, still what it lacks in quantity is made up in quality, and, as the Minister of Finance has said, it is the centre of a very large surrounding country and a considerable number of rural routes are served from the local post office. Moreover, there is a strong demand from the whole community for a public building. At present there is no suitable building there sufficiently large and heated for a post office; it is not in the centre of the town nor does it fill the requirements, although it is well kept and has served the community for a long time. We ask, not perhaps for a \$12,000 building, but for a building which will give the town and country better accommodation than they have to-day. My hon. friend from Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) is a genial, good-natured fellow who is always willing to support anything that is fair and just, and I am surprised that he should get up now and single out this one small item for the little province of Prince Edward Island and attack it in the way he has done. I appeal to the hon. gentleman to support me in my request for improved accommodation for that little town down there and I promise him that when he comes forward with a similar request I will back him up and do my best to see that his constituency gets what it deserves.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): It would not do for me not to express my appreciation of the hon. gentleman's promise. I sincerely appreciate it, coming as it does from a member who has been as successful as he has been in securing what he wanted for his own constituency. He says that the people there do not want a \$12,000 building. Well, I feel I have a strong ally in him and I am prepared to shake hands with the hon. member on this matter and go arm in arm with him to the