

as men of honour, and men of dignity. Now, I think it is fair and right to discuss these questions, every question in an honourable and fair manner, but I do abhor slinging dirt across the House. I respect every man, let every man think as he wishes, but I think that every man in this House should be a gentleman no matter on which side he sits. I am surprised to hear these remarks uttered on the floor of this House. I am a humble farmer, but thank God I have common understanding, and the common honesty to treat my opponents in a fair and honourable way. I am sorry to sit here and listen to what I have heard. We have had religion, creed and everything else. Now, I want to know what all these side issues have to do with this question. I am willing to sit here day after day, and night after night, and discuss and criticise every item that comes before you, but when hon. gentlemen look across the floor of this House and look over the heads of these Ministers and in their faces, and say we are voting machines, I draw the line there. When hon. gentlemen look across the floor of this House and in the face of these Ministers and say that they will compel us by force, I draw the line. It cannot be done. I am willing to discuss these things squarely and above board, but do not throw challenges across this House, because if you do you will find men to take them up.

Mr. DEVLIN. (Translation.) I would like to ask the hon. Minister —

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DEVLIN. (Translation.) It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there are rules which govern the debates in this House. I ask for your protection. I wish to know whether you are able to see the dignity of the House respected. It is impossible to discuss this item as long as the members of the right will continue to make such a noise. Well, since there is no stopping it, I will try to put in English the remarks I was about to offer.

(In English.) I thought I had a perfect right to speak to the Minister of Public Works in his own language. I was about asking the Minister several questions when an hon. gentleman behind him stood up and spoke upon every conceivable and inconceivable question, except the question before the Chair. He spoke of a great many matters which have no connection whatever with the Farnham post office. He told us, for instance, that he was thirty years in public life. Nobody disputed that. That matter is not before the Chair now. We are delighted to know that the hon. gentleman is thirty years in public life, and if our wishes were carried out he would be thirty years more in public life.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The item is West Farnham. You had better not follow his example.

Mr. DEVLIN. Well, I have so seldom reason to follow the example of a Conservative, that I was availing myself of this opportunity now, and you pick a quarrel with me.

Mr. DEVLIN. (Translation.) I wanted to answer the arguments of the gentleman who preceded me, but interruptions are constantly disturbing the thread of my speech.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Question.

Mr. DEVLIN. (Translation.) I am speaking to the question. The post office at Farnham gave last year a revenue of \$1,998.58. That is the

Mr. FAIRBAIRN.

figure which we find in the report of the Postmaster General. It appears that the hon. Postmaster General told us to-night that the reason for which the Government undertook this work was that it had been promised some time ago.

(In English.) There is an interesting little bit of history in connection with this post office. The Minister of Public Works said that certain engagements were made, and as the result these buildings are being carried out. We all know that the member for Missisquoi was elected to this House at the general election in 1891. A protest was entered against his return, and it was expected that another election would take place. Engagements were entered into about that time for the construction of this public building in Farnham, not before the general election but after it, and immediately preceding the anticipated bye-election. The question is, had this promise anything to do with this proposed expenditure?

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. DEVLIN. The Minister of Public Works was not Minister at that time, and perhaps he has inaugurated a new way of doing things. No doubt the hon. member for Algoma will find no fault with this expenditure.

Mr. MACDONELL (Algoma). No.

Mr. DEVLIN. That hon. gentleman found no fault with the Bancroft affair or with the Harris expenditure, or with any other expenditure made by the Government. He is satisfied to whiten whatever they ask him to whiten. I brought up the night before last, last night and again to-night, the question of the Buckingham post office, because the necessity for the construction of public buildings is stated by the Minister to be the cause of this expenditure. I have pointed out that Buckingham is ahead of Farnham. We have recently had the verdict of the people, and we are satisfied with the verdict rendered.

Mr. BOWELL. Once in a while you are satisfied.

Mr. DEVLIN. We had a verdict in Welland and were satisfied; in Lincoln and were satisfied; in Prescott and were satisfied, and we will have no doubt a satisfactory verdict in Pontiac.

Mr. BOWELL. We do not begrudge 4 out of 20.

Mr. DEVLIN. It is he and other gentlemen like him who charge us with obstruction when we are actively engaged trying to find out how public money is expended. The population of Farnham is 1,520 and the revenue from the post office last year was only \$1,998. As I take from the blue-book, the Postmaster General's Report —

An hon. MEMBER. It is the Dairy Report you have got.

Mr. DEVLIN. It is not. I believe the hon. gentleman likes cream, and probably that is the reason he called it the Dairy Report. Of course the explanation given for the erection of this building is that the present Minister of Public Works was not in office when these public buildings were promised, and that he is merely carrying out promises made anterior to his reign. It is very satisfactory to know from this statement that he will in all probability drop this kind of policy, and it is in the interest of the country that it should be