

were taken up in their order, and facilities in the way of public buildings given to them as the public finances warranted. That much I desire to say preliminary to mentioning a fact which no doubt has, previous to this, been brought to the attention of the Government by the Postmaster General, who has been memorialized, I believe, for the erection of a public building in the very important town of Paris which now, thanks to the kindness of my hon. friends opposite, forms a very important part of my constituency. They represent that it is a very large and very important town, and, without instituting any invidious comparisons, I might say more important than many that have been favoured with these public buildings. I might say that the business transacted there of all kinds is of greater magnitude than that transacted in those other towns. I thought that perhaps the hon. Postmaster General would have recognized this as a very fitting time and a very auspicious opportunity for manifesting, by a vote in the Supplementary Estimates of this year for that town, his desire to relieve what I consider has been the unvarying monotony of granting public buildings to towns and cities wholly represented by hon. gentlemen opposite, in full accord with the Ministry of the day. I mention this without desiring to arouse any feelings of enmity or hostility on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite, but I do think that in the expenditure of public money contributed by all the people of the country, we should, in the matter of the erection of these public buildings, take the same line of conduct that was uniformly acted up to by the late Government. If we should do so, I think that in any further grants that are to be given, the one that has been already brought to the notice of the Postmaster General cannot but receive favourable consideration at the hands of the Government.

Mr. HESSON. I am glad that we have had a post office erected in the town of Stratford, and from what I can learn from hon. gentlemen opposite it was the intention of the late Government to have erected a post office there, but unfortunately the revenues of the country were not then in a condition to warrant such an expenditure. When this Government found themselves in a position to do so, they very wisely adopted the course contemplated by the late Government, and I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that it is well to take up first those larger towns in which the Customs, Excise and Post office revenues combined make it desirable in the interest of general usefulness that public buildings should be there erected. I am glad to say that in the town the hon. gentleman referred to, where a post office has been erected, the revenue is of such a character as to justify that expenditure, and it is not one of those small towns to which my hon. friend has referred. In the town of Stratford the revenue returns of last year gave Excise \$58,000, Customs \$42,000, Post office \$9,000, or a total revenue of \$109,000, and the Government were paying rent in three different places. I think it was but right that the Government, under such circumstances, should take that place into consideration, and the post office erected there is a credit to the Government of the Dominion. It is not of that gaudy cheap style of architecture of which the country would be ashamed and which prevailed in the buildings erected under the late Administration. I do not believe it would be judicious to erect public buildings in every small place, but when the place is worth such structures, they should be constructed in a manner worthy of the Government, and not as erected in Guelph and Brantford in the days of the late Administration.

Mr. FOSTER. In reference to the remarks made by the hon. member for Brant as to the unvarying monotony with which grants were made to counties represented by friends of the Administration, I must say that as regards New Brunswick his remarks are not quite correct; for during the present regime grants have been made for post offices in

the county of Carleton which is represented certainly not by a supporter of this Government, in the county of York, which was not represented by a supporter of this Government, and in the county of Charlotte, in the town of St. Stephen's, which was not, and is not, represented by a supporter of this Government. If the hon. gentleman's accuracy in all other matters may be measured by his accuracy in this, the House will have not a very good impression in regard to it.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I said I spoke subject to correction.

Mr. MACKENZIE. At what place in York was there any building put up?

Mr. FOSTER. The post office in the city of Fredericton.

Mr. MACKENZIE. No, not by the present Administration. It was by the previous Administration.

Mr. PATERSON. So the hon. gentleman is inaccurate.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I am happy to be able to set the mind of the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Cook) at rest as to the Barrie post office. I think he has not been there lately, and has not taken as much trouble as he ought to have taken to inform himself as to the facts. I find in a Barrie paper of the 14th February some remarks which I will read to the House. I suppose, as a good Reformer, the hon. gentleman never reads the Conservative paper, and so is only half informed as to matters in his own county:

"Our Reform friends will not be at all pleased at the vigorous way in which the work on the new post office is being pressed. Ever since Mr. McCarthy first brought the matter before the attention of the Government, they have been in hopes that his efforts would be unsuccessful. When tenders were called for, it was a mere electioneering dodge, and the knowledge that the Reformers are an authority on this subject doubtless led many to believe it. When it was announced that the tender had actually been granted, we were assured it was bogus. When the work of excavation was commenced, the Government was just digging a little hole in which to bury Mr. Phelps. As soon as the election was over, according to our Reform contemporaries, who, of course, are in Sir John's confidence, the whole thing would be permitted to fall through. When the bricks were put upon the ground, they were mere dabs of clay that would melt at the first shower. These, of course, were electioneering tactics which the exigencies of the party required. But, when the election was over and the necessity for them ended, one would think they would cease. But nothing of the kind. When the excavation was stopped by the frost and a dozen men and teams thrown out of employment, there was rejoicing among the Barrie Grits, and Mr. Phelps was not ashamed to stand up in his place in the House and assert that it was stopped because he was elected. But now, when the stone is being delivered and the mallets and chisels of the stone-dressers are ringing all day, there is not a word upon the subject, not even a local line in either of Mr. Phelps' organs. What is music to the public ear is heard by them with bitterness of spirit."

Mr. IRVINE. I ought to be very thankful to the member for King's, New Brunswick (Mr. Foster) for having referred to Carleton. The hon. gentleman must know very well that the promise, at all events, if not the contract, was made by the present Government during the time the country was represented by the late Mr. Connell. I have to remind the member for King's that the Government of this country has done better towards the people of Carleton, New Brunswick, than he did. Last fall, he delivered a temperance lecture in the town of Woodstock, and he could not do that without reminding the people that, if they sent up a petition to the Government of Canada numerously signed, he would use his influence with the Government to put an illuminated clock in the tower of that building; but, he said, in return remember that your duty is to send a man to support the present Government. Allow me to say that the hon. gentleman got his deserts: Although it was in a Methodist meeting-house, he received hisses. That is the pay the hon. gentleman received.

Mr. IVES. In the absence of my hon. friend from Sherbrooke (Mr. Hall), I would like to call the attention of the Government to another kind of grievance altogether. It seems to be the practice here to complain that public buildings have not been erected in towns of a certain size. Now,