

of the town. They will see Sir William Mulock and Hon. Messrs. Sutherland and Paterson this afternoon and will ask for a new post office building.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Public Works if it is his intention to grant that application.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I do not know what paper my hon. friend has quoted from, but every city is quite within its rights in sending a delegation to wait on any minister in order to press its claims. This deputation was not entirely composed of Liberals but of both Liberals and Conservatives. In the same way we have deputations from the city of Toronto to which we have given considerable time the last few days, and which are largely composed of very active Conservatives. As far as I am personally concerned I have always given all the time I could to receiving deputations, irrespective of politics. As regards Bracebridge, the question of giving that place a new post office was being negotiated before ever the election in North Ontario was thought of. Our late respected friend, Mr. McLeod, who supported the opposition and represented North Ontario, was pressing the claim of Bracebridge for a public building, and if the late member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) were here, he would also say that that matter was engaging our attention while he was a member of this House and that it had nothing to do with the last election, or the election of the present representative. I also received a deputation headed by my hon. friend from Muskoka (Mr. McCormick) which was composed of supporters of both parties, prominent merchants and manufacturers, and I am always pleased, when I think it is in the public interest, to grant public assistance from any of the departments irrespective of the political leanings of the hon. member who urges the claim. I remember that years ago, when the constituency which my hon. friend represents now was represented by Mr. Masson in this House, I, in my humble way, tried to impress the late government with the desirability of recognizing the claim he was making for a building at that time. While I am not prepared to say that all things being equal, the government would not be more influenced by their supporters than by their opponents, I for one will always ask the House to vote such expenditures solely in the public interest. If more of these votes are for constituencies represented by Liberals during many years in this House than for those represented by Conservatives, it is simply because, under the policy which was carried out by the late government, the majority of constituencies represented by Conservatives do not require public buildings. For many years the late government carried out the policy of refusing any consideration, except in extreme cases, to constituencies represented by Liberals. I for

Mr. REID (Grenville).

my part am not disposed to adopt any such policy. I think that the less partisanship you have in these matters the better and that in every case fair consideration should be given on its merits to the demand of any constituency.

Mr. DAVIS. It is refreshing to hear the hon. leader of the opposition talking about the government trying to bribe constituencies in a wholesale manner. But let me draw his attention to the fact that for eighteen years the party he leads resorted to that policy. I remember that in my constituency they went so far as to promise a mounted police barracks to a certain portion of that constituency if the government candidate were elected, and to show their bona fides they hauled a lot of sand on to the ground and got the surveyor to lay out the location. But after the election the stone and sand were hauled away and nothing more was done. On another occasion not only did their newspapers publish articles, but their candidate himself told the people plainly that if they voted for the government they would get a barracks worth \$60,000 to \$70,000. The government candidate was elected and the people got the barracks. I remember that on the occasion of another election we had in my constituency, the members of the mounted police were promised scrip and medals if they would vote for the Conservative candidate. They were paraded by their officers in the barracks square and telegrams were read from the Conservative government to the effect that if they voted for the Conservative candidate they would get the scrip and medals. They voted, but they have never received the scrip or medals to this day. That sort of thing was carried on throughout the Northwest. One candidate used to say: What is the use of voting for an opposition candidate?—you can't get anything for your riding; if you want improvement or public buildings, or more police, vote for me. It is amusing to find a gentleman rising here talking economy, when I understand that it is only two weeks since that hon. gentleman headed a delegation to the Minister of Public Works asking for a grant of \$250,000 to spend in the city of Toronto.

Mr. BROCK. What for.

Mr. DAVIS. It makes no difference what it was for. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) headed a delegation asking for that expenditure in the city. Now he says it is not right for the government to spend a certain amount in the small towns in Ontario, because they are at a standstill or going back. But I think the small towns have as good a right to have public moneys spent in them as the larger cities have. They are contributing to the revenues, and I do not see why they have not the right to get the benefit of some of the expenditure. It is just as necessary to have a post office in a small town as in a big one.