

ment—probably because the Minister of Education had endeavoured as far as he could to imitate the elegance of his new quarters at the Normal School. This state of affairs was certainly not creditable to the richest Province of the Dominion, and it was the duty of hon. members on both sides of the House to express their opinions on the subject without fear, favour, or affection. He believed if they did so they would come to the conclusion that the present buildings were not such as Ontario should have. (Hear.) That conclusion had been come to over twenty years ago, during the Administration of Sir Francis Hincks, when the following resolutions had been passed:—

“That the buildings heretofore used for the Houses of Parliament and the various departments of the public service in the City of Toronto are wholly inadequate therefor, and that the ground on which they stand is coming rapidly to be within the commercial and business portion of the city, so that while it will be every year less adapted to the purposes to which it has been hitherto applied, its value will become so great that it can no longer be applied with a due regard to economy, at the same time that its application to such purposes would stand greatly in the way of improvements urgently required in the said city for commercial and business purposes.

“That the best site for the Public Buildings aforesaid would be the ground in the said city forming part of the University endowment, and lying at the head of the College Avenue, which ground will not be required for collegiate purposes.”

At that time the old Parliament of Canada had numbered only 84 members, and though there was then a Legislative Council Chamber, he did not think that a comparison between the present resources and general financial position of Ontario and those of the then Province of Canada would lead any one who considered the matter to believe that the conclusion then come to should now be abandoned. The revenue had then been from three to three and one-half millions, and it was now rapidly coming up to that amount. The locality had also been considered by the old Parliament of Canada, and they had declared in favour of a site at the head of College Avenue (a portion of the University endowment), on the ground that the business and commercial requirements of the city made the present site an objectionable one. They had carried through a measure for the sale of the buildings and land as well as some water lots in connection with the property, and for the funding of the proceeds. There had also been a large appropriation for the erection of new Parliament Buildings and Government House. The selection of Ottawa as the seat of Government had, however, been made, and had prevented any action being taken towards the erection of new Parliament Buildings. Three estimates had been prepared by the Department of Public Works. The first estimate included the erection of Government House, and was in round numbers \$450,000. The second was for rather a more elaborate structure, and amounted to \$680,000, while the third included the condition that the buildings should be thoroughly fire proof, which involved an additional expense of about \$100,000. He did not believe that the sentiments of the Province would be in favour of any elaborate ornamentation of new buildings when erected, but they should at least be symmetrical. The ground on which the present buildings stood had become very valuable for commercial purposes, so valuable that if sold the proceeds, along with a very small draft upon our large surplus of nearly five millions, would be sufficient to erect appropriate buildings. The property had been estimated at \$300,000, and suppose that the cost of the new buildings should be half a million, they had three fifths of the amount required to erect them, and the amount to be expended would not be immediately required, but would be spread over a number of years. Since the Province of Ontario had had a separate Government no less than \$120,000 had been expended upon the present buildings. That that sum would go on increasing no one could doubt who understood the difficulty of keeping the structure in repair. The property of the University, which had been determined upon by Act of Parliament as the probable site of the new buildings, was leased out in lots for the University endowment, and only six per cent. of its value paid each year. He had no doubt that for a very small sum a site selected under the Act of Parliament to which he had referred could be presently available. He hoped the Gov-

ernment would see no objection to the returns for which he asked. He hoped, too, that meantime something would be done to prevent the glare of light from the windows on the south side of the chamber falling directly in the faces of hon. members to the right of the Speaker, to the injury of their eyesight. He suggested that the Speaker's chair should be on the north side of the chamber, and that the chairs should be arranged to the right and left of Mr. Speaker, as at present.

Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman may come over to this side if he chooses. (Laughter.)

Mr. HODGINS said that no doubt hon. members to the right of Mr. Speaker were now in the fire-roc glare of public opinion, but they did not wish to turn their backs upon the light by going over to the other side of the House. (Laughter.)

Mr. WILLIAMS said he thought the new Crown Lands Building should be erected at once. It had not cost half the amount to repair this building that it had to repair the newly erected Provincial buildings. If this building were put in proper repair it would last for many years, as the walls were more solid than those of any other public building in the Province.

Mr. LAUDER did not believe new buildings could be erected for \$500,000. He objected to removing the buildings from this site, and did not consider that this was a proper time to initiate an expenditure for new Parliamentary buildings. The Legislature had not much to complain of in the present building, though the accommodation for the public departments might not be sufficient.

Mr. MOWAT said of course there could be no objection to the motion. No one doubted that at some day they would require new Parliamentary buildings, but he believed the general sentiment of the people was that they were not required yet. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt that one reason for the strong feeling which now existed was the enormous difference which there had been between the sum voted for the Parliamentary Buildings at Ottawa and the amount they actually cost. He thought they would have to do the best they could for some time to come with the buildings they now had.

Mr. BELL contended that the sanitary arrangements of these buildings were most defective. Buildings required by the Province might be erected for \$200,000 or \$300,000, or even \$400,000 or \$500,000, and the amount would be well spent if it improved the sanitary arrangements of the House and provided proper accommodation for the Departments. He believed the Province had sufficient money for this purpose and for giving assistance to railways at the same time.

Mr. SCOTT believed the view that new Parliament buildings were required was premature.

Mr. SINCLAIR did not believe new Parliament buildings were necessary at present. He thought, however, that any additional buildings which were required should be erected. The public opinion would justify the Government in putting up sufficient buildings to accommodate all the departments and to give security to the Crown Lands records. This Province ought not to rent buildings from any one. A time of depression, when the working classes were suffering, was the best time to commence any buildings, and not, as the member for East Grey had said, the worst time. He objected, however, to moving the buildings from the present site.

Mr. SEXTON favoured the erection of a new Crown Lands office, to form part of the new buildings to be built eventually.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe) said this question must be considered sooner or later, and his view was that this property should be sold and the new buildings fixed on the site of the Upper Canada College. If that institution were to be continued he thought it might be removed to the Park. He saw no immediate necessity for the erection of a fire-proof building for the Crown Lands.

Mr. ROBINSON also favoured the removal of the site, though he believed these buildings would suffice for the present.

The motion passed.

CENTRAL PRISON.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN moved “That a Select Committee, composed of Messrs. Ferris, Striker, McMahon, Meredith, and O'Sullivan, be appointed to inquire into the internal management of the