

TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEB. 3.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

At the meeting of the House yesterday Mr. Hodgins moved for returns respecting the Parliamentary Buildings. He called attention to the fact that one of the returns he asked for was a report of the Public Works Department of the old Province of Canada so long since as 1856. He pointed out the defects of the present buildings, their disgraceful appearance, unhealthiness, and want of convenience, and urged that no one could come to any other conclusion than the one arrived at twenty years ago, that the buildings were even then insufficient and unsuitable for their purpose. From the data that report supplied he believed that a sum of \$500,000 would cover the erection of a tasteful and perfectly fire-proof structure fully adequate to all the demands of the public service. His policy would be to sell the present site, worth, as he believed, \$300,000, and thus leave only some \$200,000 to be provided, the expenditure of which would be extended over several years. The outlay on repairs of the buildings since Confederation had amounted to nearly \$120,000, and the tendency would naturally be towards

increase rather than the reverse. A site in the Queen's Park could, he suggested, be obtained on lease at a very small annual cost. Mr. Williams favoured the construction of a fire-proof Crown Lands building, and the thorough repair of the present block. Mr. Lander suggested the motion was put out as a feeler to test the opinion of the House. He regarded the estimate of cost as fallacious, and deprecated a change of site. Nor did he believe the time was opportune for reconstruction. Mr. Mowat thought the time would come for rebuilding, but that public opinion would not warrant such a proceeding at present. A good deal of the opposition was no doubt owing to the cost of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa having largely exceeded the estimates. This was no reason why the same error should be repeated, but it prevailed nevertheless. Mr. Bell complained of the unhealthy condition of the chamber. He believed that buildings could be constructed for \$300,000 or \$400,000, although much more might be expended on ornamentation. He believed the Province could well afford the money for the purpose without injury to the claims of other objects. Mr. Scott did not think any

justified his motion for enquiry. His remarks were directed against the alleged misconduct of the late guard, Stedman, including allegations of cruelty, levity, and favouritism, as well as to instances of alleged misappropriation of labour. Religious prejudices were also stated to have prevailed so far as to have led to the refusal of the consolations of religion in the last moments of a prisoner's life. The personal habits and conduct of the Warden were included in the indictment. After speaking for an hour and a half the honourable gentlemen concluded by modestly disclaiming the possession of the oratorical powers of a Demosthenes or Cicero, and bemoaning the illustrations the statements he had made afforded of "man's inhumanity to man." It is proper to notice, however, that the whole of the allegations made by Dr. O'Sullivan had appeared in an evening paper published in this city, most, if not all, of which had been disproved by the evidence taken by the Provincial Secretary during his protracted investigation at the instance of the Government, which evidence is now being printed for the use of members. Mr. Wood rose at a quarter to six to reply, and pointed out the extreme unfairness of making charges and allegations in the absence of the authoritative testimony that would shortly be submitted to the House. Mr. Wood was speaking when the hour for recess arrived, and the debate under the rules of the House stood over.

On the House resuming, after the hour allotted to Private Bills had elapsed, Mr. Wood proceeded with his speech in reply to Dr. O'Sullivan. He sketched the history of the prison, defended the appointment of the Warden, described the character of the punishments in use in the Central and American prisons, the nature of the food, the allowance of meals, the efforts of criminals to evade work, and the necessity for enforcing discipline. He sug-

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gested the allegations of the member for East Peterboro' as an almost verbatim reproduction of gross exaggerations from