

was unanswerable, and starting with that assumption he averred that the facts warranted them in saying that these buildings were wholly inadequate for the purposes for which they were intended, for of the six Departments of the Government less than one-half of them were carried on within the present structure. Neither the Department of Public Works, that of the Attorney-General, nor the Department of Education were accommodated within these walls, while that part of the Secretary's Department relating to immigration and the Insurance Branch of the Treasurer's Department were also carried on in other buildings. So that they found this rich Province which enjoyed a large surplus, and was giving away millions every year to aid various enterprises throughout the country, having its public offices in buildings erected half a century ago, and which were now inadequate to accommodate one half of the Departments of the public service. Putting that reasonably to the House and to the country he did not think that that was a state of things which should be allowed to continue; that Ontario, in justice to itself as the empire Province of the Dominion, should have buildings such as would amply accommodate all the Departments of the public service. (Hear, hear.) He knew that from a miserly point of view it might suit the views of some hon. gentlemen to have the Departments of the Province scattered throughout the city, but he did not think that the people of this Province would consider it fitting that they should go about as public tenants carrying on their business in private dwellings. He stated further that these buildings were absolutely unsafe. He did not speak of this Chamber, but of the Departments; and he averred that any person who knew anything about the subject would say that the present Crown Lands Department was no place in which such important public documents and records as plans and maps of the whole of our surveys, and the title deeds of a large portion of the lands of this Province, should be allowed to remain for a single day. If a fire got into these buildings and got any headway they would go like a whiff of smoke, and there would be no probability of saving it; and though they had fortunately escaped that calamity thus far no reasonable man could consent to allow this risk to continue for a moment longer than was necessary. (Hear, hear.) Admitting these buildings to be unsafe and inadequate, they had to do one or other of three things; first, they might blind themselves to the present state of affairs, and allow things to go on as they were, and take their chances. He did not think any man, whose judgment was worth anything before the people of this Province, could honestly contend in favour of that position, especially as the question had already been pronounced upon by the people's representatives. Two alternatives remained; they might either reconstruct the Crown Lands Department so as to make it safe and sufficient for the public service, or else erect new buildings out and out. Supposing they decided that they should have a reconstruction of the Crown Lands Department, it would be well to consider what was involved in that proposition. In the first place the new buildings would have to be fire proof, for as the Government had made it imperative on the various counties throughout the Province to provide fire-proof buildings for their title deeds and other such documents, they would not be warranted in placing public documents of vastly greater importance in a building that was not fire proof. Another thing which might be taken for granted was that the new accommodation must be upon the present site, for nobody would suggest that any other should be selected for such a purpose. That being admitted the next question was that of cost. Somebody might be inclined to say that the necessary expenditure would not be more than \$100,000 or \$125,000, but they must bear in mind that if they adopted the course which he was now considering they would have to include with the actual cost of the buildings the value of the block of land upon which the present buildings stood. He would put the value of the land at say \$250,000, and suppose that the

buildings would cost 100,000, and they had an expenditure of \$350,000 for single Departmental buildings, as against the proposed expenditure of \$500,000, which would give accommodation for all the Departments, for the Legislative Assembly, and for the library, and each of them adapted to their respective requirements in every respect. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) And supposing that it was argued that it was better to spend \$350,000 in this way, and if they included accommodation for the other outside Departments, the amount would be very much greater than \$500,000 for the erection of new buildings, in what position would they find themselves? They would have a new building representing the Crown Lands Department placed alongside of an unsightly block of old tumble-down buildings, one crying "shame" to the other, and the whole affair a reproach to the Province and a by-word to every one who visited the city. (Hear, hear.) The result would be that the Province would be compelled out of sheer shame, and in respect for its position as the premier Province of the Dominion, to go on and continue the work of erection by adding new buildings for the other Departments, and eventually on the Legislative Chamber and the Library. And if they did that they would find that the cost would reach to one million dollars, instead of one half that amount as was proposed by the resolutions before the House. They would be met furthermore with the constant outcry from the people of Toronto against the Provincial Government occupying this valuable block of land, and he could not but say that the cry would be a righteous one, when the city was practically offering a new and better site free of cost. Now the proposition of the Government was to go to work at once and erect new Provincial buildings to accommodate the Legislature and all the Departments at a cost of not more than \$500,000. If he was right in his calculation, and he thought he was, the difference between the cost to the country of this single Department and the cost of new buildings out and out would be but a mere bagatelle, when it was considered that for the larger amount they would have buildings which would be worthy of the leading Province of the Dominion. Hon. gentlemen would naturally desire to know upon what they based their assumption that the new buildings would not cost more than \$500,000. He would be told that estimates for public buildings invariably fell behind the actual cost, and instanced the example of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. He would say in the first place that the Government had no desire for the expenditure of money merely for the sake of expending it. They would much rather be in the position of saying that this expenditure was not necessary, if they could do so consistently with their duties and responsibilities to the people, than to accept the position in which they found themselves with regard to this question. But they had considered the matter very fully from the outset, and had taken care to make themselves certain that the expenditure would not exceed the estimate. To those who said that estimates for the erection of public buildings were invariably exceeded, he would say that if they would take the record of the Public Works Department for the past forty or fifty years they would find that everyone of the public buildings erected within that time had been erected for less than the estimated amount. (Cheers.) He took no special credit to the Department on that account, only that they had tried in every case to make careful estimates, and to prevent contractors from getting the advantage of the Province in those matters. He pointed out that the estimates for the erection of two cottages in 1877 for the accommodation of 120 patients, and a refractory ward at the London Asylum, for 140 patients, was \$120,000, and that they had been erected for \$101,090. In the same year they had asked an appropriation of \$160,000 for the erection of a building to accommodate 300 patients at the Hamilton Asylum, and the building had been erected for 141,000. The same was true with regard to the Normal School at Ottawa, and as to the Central Prison they were not responsible for the estimates in

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