

consider whether it is prepared to take a further step, and authorize an expenditure for new buildings, and if so, to what extent. So long ago as 1880 an Act was passed authorizing the Government to expend the sum of \$500,000 on new buildings. The House is aware that subsequent to that vote being taken competitive plans were advertised for, obtained, and remodelled, and that tenders were received by the Government. The House is also aware that the Government came to the conclusion that buildings such as were necessary for the requirements of the Province could not be erected for the sum of \$500,000, and as the Government were pledged to the House that no greater expenditure would be incurred, no further step has meanwhile been taken. Now the Government propose to ask the House to be permitted to expend \$750,000 for the erection of the necessary buildings, and the proposition is to amend the Act previously passed by substituting \$750,000 for \$500,000. The House having decided as firmly and expressly as it did that these buildings are necessary, and considering the fact that many of those who voted against the resolution declaring that new buildings were necessary expressed themselves in favour of them, I think I am right in saying that not only those who voted for the proposal, but many who did not, are of opinion that new buildings are necessary. There are two things to be considered. One is, should these buildings be erected? And the other, to what cost should the Province be put for their erection? There are those who suggest that new buildings are not necessary, that all that is required is the erection of some additions to the present buildings. It will be said that these would cost not more than \$100,000 or \$150,000, but the House will observe that this plan involves

**MORE THAN THE MERE COST**

of the proposed additions. In other words, if you put up buildings costing \$150,000 here, having all the necessary requirements for the Crown Lands Department, it would cost the Province not only \$150,000, but that sum plus the actual selling price of the site. Hon. gentlemen will see that is the actual position so far as the Province is concerned, because it would mean that this site is to be retained, and the sum which might be obtained if it were converted into money to be applied to the erection of buildings elsewhere would remain tied up, and so the Province would have expended, directly and indirectly, the sum of \$150,000, plus the selling price of the site. Then, further, the addition would be a building of modern style. It would not be at all such a building as this in design, in style, or in character, and then there would be this unseemly thing, that these buildings, costing nearly half a million dollars on the basis I have given, would be shaming these old buildings for all time to come. No man having any regard at all to what the character of the buildings should be would be content that alongside of this barrack there should be new buildings shaming the old ones. The result would of necessity almost be that those in charge of the affairs of the Province would be in favour of saying, sooner or later, that these old buildings must come down, so in the end, if this proposition were followed, the Province would be put to the cost of expending a sum, which added to the price of the site and the additions, together amounting to \$350,000 or \$400,000, would perhaps not be much less than one or one and a quarter millions. What we propose to do is that suggested by the Act of 1880, viz., to erect the buildings in the Park. By those who are competent to judge, it is said that that site is one of the finest in the Dominion for such a purpose, and I agree with that opinion. That site can be had for nothing, because if hon. gentlemen will look back to the Act they will find there is an agreement made authorizing the erection of Parliament Buildings there. That agreement is made binding by the Act of 1880. The plan proposed by the Government saves to the Province the cost of the site. It is proposed to erect upon this site new buildings of one of two styles. After the Act of 1880

**COMPETITIVE DESIGNS**

were asked for. These were remodelled and modified, and tenders were asked for the erection of the buildings according to two of these sets of designs, the first set being the works of architects, Messrs. Gordon and Helliwell, and the second set being the work of Messrs. Darling and Curry. Honourable gentlemen who have been in the reception room, or what may be called such by courtesy, for it is only by courtesy that the room at present used for this purpose can be called such, will remember to have seen hung on the walls two designs of the new buildings. I am not aware of the technical term used by architects in describing them—ground elevations I believe they are called. One of these two designs will be selected. There may be some slight modifications of the interior arrangements with regard to the offices necessary for the different departments, rooms for the convenience of members, etc.

Mr. MEREDITH—Might I ask whether the Education Department is to be provided for in the new buildings?

Mr. FRASER—This matter was some time ago fully considered, and it was thought advisable that, having regard to the fact that the grounds and buildings now occupied by the Education

**ONTARIO LEGISLATURE**  
 Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)  
 Wednesday, March 18.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.  
**REPORT OF COMMITTEE.**

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) presented the report of the Committee on Bill No. 103, respecting licenses.

**FIRST READING.**

Mr. McLAUGHLIN—To amend the Municipal Act.

**THIRD READINGS.**

Mr. McIntyre — To declare valid certain by-laws of the Town of Lindsay, and a lease made between the said Town of Lindsay and Richard Sylvester.

Mr. Morris—To amend the Charter of incorporation of the Niagara Falls International Camp Meeting Association.

Hon. T. B. Pardee—Respecting the Town of Sarnia.

**NEW DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS.**

Hon. C. F. FRASER, in moving the House into Committee on the resolutions with reference to new Legislative and Departmental Buildings, said:—I propose, Mr. Speaker, to make some explanations before you leave the chair. I do not propose to detain the House at any very great length. The question, whether or not new Buildings are necessary, has already been decided this session. The House has, by a very considerable majority, pronounced itself in the position that, having regard to the character of the present buildings, that having regard to the necessities of the public service of this Province, and that having regard to all the circumstances that ought to be considered, the time has come when new public buildings should be erected. It remains, therefore, for the House to