

and the Committee still hoped to be able to roof in the building before winter set in. With this end in view an effort was made to secure the services of masons to complete that portion of the stone work necessary before the roof could be put on. In this they were frustrated by the unrighteous demand of the Trades Union, that the Committee should pay the wages of the men before the masons would be allowed to work on the building. The Building Committee were strongly of opinion that under no circumstances would they be warranted in assuming any of the debts of the Contractor, and they accordingly persistently refused to recognize the claims made upon them by the workmen as to be entertained for a moment. This action on the part of the Unions completely paralyzed all the efforts made by us to render the building fit for the roof this fall. We have, however, secured the building against damage from winter frost by having it banked all around the foundation, and the upper surface of the walls also carefully protected.

The amounts paid by us to the carpenters, on the certificates of the Clerk of Works are as follows:

May 28th.....	\$500 00
July 26th.....	500 00
August 28th.....	700 00
September 20th.....	400 00
November 8th.....	500 00

Making a total of..... \$2600 00

According to contract, we were bound to give the building into the hands of the carpenters ready for the roof on the 13th of September. The carpenters have, owing to this, made a demand upon the Committee, for a sum in indemnification of the loss they consider themselves to have sustained by not having the building at the time agreed upon by contract. They make the two following propositions to the Committee: *First*, they ask for the sum of \$3,500, and require the Committee to guarantee that the building be ready for roofing on or before the 12th day of May, 1873; and they are then prepared to carry on the contract. *Secondly*, they ask for \$2,600, in addition to the amounts they have already received, and they will acquit the Committee of all further obligations to them. These propositions were only laid before the Committee at the last meeting, on the 2nd of December, and a sub-Committee was appointed to obtain legal advice on the subject and report to the Committee. The Committee are still hopeful that they may be able to have the building furnished almost at the time fixed upon in the several contracts.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN McMILLAN,  
Secy. Building Committee.