

receives but from six to eight hundred dollars, which makes so much saved. Mr. Richard, who had a salary of \$1,400.00, was not replaced, nor Mr Fortin, who was in receipt of \$1,200.00. The same was done with regard to several other officers, deceased, resigned or dismissed and I can affirm on the whole that we have effected considerable and important economies, not as considerable as we might have desired, but as considerable as circumstances permitted.

I could multiply instances of economy effected by the National Government; but those which I have just mentioned clearly show that we have not failed to put our programme into practice every time that opportunity offered. We will do more, as soon as the settlement of other more important and more pressing matters will permit us to modify the organization of the civil service and to carry out all the reforms of which it is susceptible.

OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

When we took office, the Province had on its hands a property which was costing it an annual rent of \$4,444 and returning nothing : I allude to the old Parliament Buildings. In looking up matters connected with this property, we were informed that the proprietors of the rent in question, basing their pretension on the interpretation of the law on the subject, were claiming an augmentation of the rent and arrears to a considerable amount, that is to say, all the difference between the Halifax pound currency and the pound sterling, making \$955.45 a year and \$19,109.20 for the twenty years elapsed since Confederation.

As we could make no profitable use of the property, the rent being too high, and as we desired to avoid the difficulty resulting from the claim just mentioned, we handed back the property to the Ottawa Government. As compensation, we gave them up at the same time the Sewell property, which was bringing us in nothing and threatened even to become a source of expense, and we also transferred to them the proceeds of the insurance on the old Parliament Buildings, which were destroyed by fire in 1883.

By this transaction, we freed ourselves from a perpetual rent represented by a capital of about \$100,000, as well as from a claim involving nearly \$20,000, without taking into account that our action will also probably favor the carrying