

I thought it better that the Government should not be holding mortgages of that kind and dealing with individuals. Where payments for releases might be coming in at inconvenient periods, it would involve a good deal of difficulty, and I thought it much better that the mortgagors should deal with private parties rather than with the Government. These were my reasons for selling the mortgages, and my doing so, as I said before, was equivalent to a cash sale of the land. I may say that one of the mortgages was not closed at the end of the year, and does not therefore appear in the receipts of 1887, but it will come into the receipts of the present year. You will recollect that the land set apart was eighty acres. The value placed upon it was \$2,000 an acre in 1880 at the time the Act was passed. We have sold fifty acres at an average price of \$3,377 per acre. I may say that the balance of the land set apart will not be placed in the market for some years, because it is required for brick-making at the Central Prison, that being one of the industries most conveniently carried on there; and, besides, a large quantity is required for the Parliament Buildings.

I may say that the total expenditure in connection with the Parliament Buildings during the year has been \$164,678.29, and the receipts from land and mortgages, \$122,211.57.

Then the last item in the receipts is sale of bonds. This was a sale of \$300,000 Dominion bonds, which the Government held as an investment. We sold these bonds, as was before stated in the House, at a rate of \$106 $\frac{7}{8}$, realizing \$320,423, or with accrued interest, \$323,041. The sale of these bonds was considered necessary at the time to provide the means required for the erection of Parliament Buildings, and also to meet the excess of expenditure which, you will recollect, I estimated would take place during the year over the amount anticipated. Had we been able at that time to foresee the successful land sale, the sale of these bonds need not have been made. The result of that sale was far beyond the anticipation of the Department, or of anybody else. In connection with that, I have some figures here which shew that the highest average amount per mile received in former sales was \$640, received in 1870, for merely one specially prized limit of twelve square miles, though taking general sales, the highest price received before was \$532 per mile in 1881, while the average amount received this year was \$2,258 per mile. I may say also that the cash payment made at this sale has been larger in proportion than at any other sale, i.e., a larger proportion of purchase money paid in cash; you may