

These suggestions are thus early thrown out that they may receive due consideration by the members of the Institute, prior to the discussion that will undoubtedly arise in connection with the adoption of new By-Laws.

During the present session of Parliament your Committee petitioned the Legislature for a renewal of the usual

ANNUAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.

To this petition your Committee have not received any formal reply, but they perceive by the published proceedings of the Legislative Assembly that the Honorable the Minister of Finance has, in his place in the House, announced that it was not the intention of the Government to ask for money for the ordinary Mechanics' and Literary Institutes.

Upwards of two months prior to the expiration of the lease to the Government of the Society's

NEW HALL,

On the first of October last, your Committee made a proposition to the Department of Public Works to arbitrate the cost of making the necessary alterations required to the building, prior to its being given up to the Institute; this plan of settlement not being acceded to, the Commissioner requested the Institute to have estimates of the cost of the work prepared and submitted to the Department, which, if considered satisfactory, might be taken as the basis of an immediate settlement. These estimates your Committee caused to be prepared in detail, and referred to two professional gentlemen—W. HAY and W. G. STORM, Esquires—who, after examination, verified them as being correct.

These estimates were at once transmitted to the Commissioner of Public Works, from whom an answer was shortly after received containing an offer to the Institute—in full settlement of all claims against the Government—of a sum amounting to a little over one-third of the amount of the verified estimates. This offer your Committee at once refused, and again asked that the whole matter be submitted to arbitration, but without success. Eventually the