

as compared with the average rate already stated, or with the cost of other Public Buildings lately erected under this Department.

Increasing the rate per cubic foot of the cost of the Buildings, as planned by Messrs. *Cumberland* and *Storm*, from 3½d. to 6d. per foot, the Estimate would stand thus :

Parliament Buildings.....	£ 85393	0	0
Department Offices.....	82018	0	0
Government House and Offices.....	35752	0	0
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	£208163	0	0
Lodges, Barracks, Guard-House, Fencing, Road-making, Planting Grounds, Drainage.....	11000	0	0
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	£214163	0	0

To this amount should be added, in my opinion, the cost of erecting those Buildings on the modern fire-proof principles, now generally adopted in *England*. The Province has already unfortunately been a severe sufferer in the destruction of Records and property by fire.

Estimate as above.....	£214163	0	0
Add for Fire-proof erection, say	35000	0	0
For general Drainage and Sewerage, introduction of Gas, Water, Heating and Ventilation.....	25000	0	0
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	£274163	0	0
Add 10 per cent. Contingencies and Superintendence..	27416	0	0
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	£301579	0	0

From the foregoing it will be seen that the sum calculated to be required to cover the cost of properly constructing the Buildings, may be taken at £300,000 on round numbers. In them is of course embraced all the accommodation necessary, including a capacious Library, with suitable provision for Picture Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts, Geology, &c., &c.

The second point to which the Order in Council refers, is the comparison of cost of erecting the required Buildings in the several sites enumerated. On this I would observe, that there is not, in my opinion, such a difference in the prices of material, balancing one class with another, or in the rate of wages, and in the greater facilities or otherwise of carrying on the works, as would make any important difference to the Province, whether the Contractors had to erect the Buildings at one site or the other.

The third and last point requires "a Report as to what Grounds and Buildings "belonging to the Government, or about to be transferred to the Government, "which may be made available in each of the Cities above-named for the accommodation of the Government and Legislature."

At *Toronto*,—There are no such accommodations of a permanent description; the arrangements now existing for the Governor General, the Legislature, and a portion of the Public Departments, on property belonging to the Province might serve for some time to come; the other Public Departments must in such case be provided for, as at present, by leasing suitable premises. There is a fine site within the City limits available for the erection of the Buildings contemplated.

At *Kingston*,—There are no Buildings belonging to the Government available; but there is a fine site on the Public Grounds known as the *Murney* property.