

8 708 521 74

To do at Do-  
partmental build-  
ings, to 1st Dec.  
Jones & Co. con-  
tractors..... 785,609.85  
Add proportion to  
Garth's contract. 16,769.05 802,378.90

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\$1,508,900.61

To complete Par-  
liament Build-  
ings is estimated  
by the Arabi

Costs at _____	\$454,823.76
Departmental build- ings _____	372,394.25
External work _____	267,291.00
	<u>1,094,510.01</u>

**ABSTRACT.**  
 Value of work and  
 materials to Dec.  
 31st 1881 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,608,900.66  
 Estimated sum to  
 complete the build-  
 ings \_\_\_\_\_ 827,220.01  
 Of this estimate sundry  
 work might be  
 postponed to the  
 value of \$68,000. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full cost of build-  
 ings \_\_\_\_\_ 2,336,120.67  
 Cost of external  
 works, estimated  
 by the Architects  
 as forming, leveling,  
 fencing, ap-  
 propriations, &c. &c. 267,290.00

(Of this amount the whole might be postponed except a sum to form an approach to each of the buildings say \$20,000, saving \$247,290.00)

Probable amount that might be deferred..... \$ 315,290.00

From the foregoing in connection with the various documents previously furnished by me a correct and reasonable opinion

The great excess of the expenditure over the appropriation, has been incurred, chiefly upon carrying out the system of heating and ventilation adopted, but whatever difference of opinion may be entertained, as to necessary

for it, the works of the various deities connected with it, are much too far advanced to render their suspension, a matter to be thought of. It is therefore necessary to suspend only the last part on them, to be thrown away, but considerable expenditure would have to be incurred, in closing up the various fines and air ducts *etc., etc.*, and sundry alterations involved therein.

Another source of very considerable expenditure, is the fact that the Government has been the obtaining of much greater security from fire, than had been originally intended; and the unforeseen nature and singular dip of the rock, on which the building stand, was also a further cause of expenditure that could scarcely have been expected.

The progress of the works of the Department of Buildings is such, that there is no reason why, (with due exertion) they cannot be ready for occupation, in August.

1563. The Parliament (not embracing the finishing of the Library) can be made available for the transaction of business, by first adjourning September 1664. Nothing has, as yet been done, towards the erection of a residence for the Government General.

I believe the delay has been owing to doubts very generally entertained, as to the expediency of placing it upon the strip of land immediately adjoining to, and least objectionable, which there are certainly many.

Being aware of the existing dissatisfaction of the unexpectedly large cost of the works, I feel it due to myself in reference thereto, to make a few remarks explanatory of the reasons which have induced particularly, from my having been a party in a late settlement to the increase of prices and

extra and additional works, beyond those which the works under Contract had been taken.

It is not a doubtless a practice much to be condemned, but becoming very general in all years, whenever these are Public Works to be let out for execution, parties come forward and tender for them, at prices, much below those that would afford a reasonable remuneration, in return for the time and skill of the contractor.

It is not a doubtless a great measure of the comparatively small amount of public Works embarked in latterly, and to the over competition consequent thereon.

Parties in their anxiety to obtain a contract, are induced to bid at prices much below the value of the work, trusting to be enabled to make themselves amply recompensed for the loss, by the superior quality of the performance of extra, or additional work at paying prices.

That the contractors in the present instance are not free from this charge, must be thought to be admitted.

The Public Buildings in Ottawa were advanced to completion first called upon (O.C. last) to visit them, in consequence of the difference that had arisen between the contractors and the officers of the department the former complaining of insufficient measurements, delay and inadequacy of payments, contractors on the other hand, claiming that extra or additional work was done and particularly against the rates reserved in the monthly estimates of the latter.

Under these circumstances, the Honorable the Commissioner of the Public Works required me, as an unbiassed party, and one not previously connected with the matter, to make an investigation of the works to ascertain the facts for the purpose of making arrangements for the stoppage of them, and for the best steps to be taken to repair

In carrying out these instructions, I soon ascertained from a report of the Deputy to the Chief Commissioner, that a schedule of prices, appended to the contracts, and purporting to fix the rates at which the extra work was to be paid for, was not inserted, but was inserted merely to govern the rates of the progress returns of the contractors, and that this was fully understood between the parties to the contract at the time of the same being signed, and that for the purpose of the extra work, remunerated at the above

anywhere in the contract provided for.