

Honorable H. Killally. several of the canals in Ireland. For some years before I came to this country, I was employed under Government in carrying on various extensive works, chiefly in the west of Ireland, roads, bridges, harbours, &c., undertaken in a great measure to afford employment and subsistence to thousands, who, from the continued failure of their crops, would otherwise have starved.

17th May, 1862

4. In what manner have you been concerned in the erection of the Ottawa Buildings?—I have not been in any manner concerned in the erection of the Buildings at Ottawa.

5. How was it then that you came to report on them?—Towards the end of last September I received a letter of instructions from the Department of Public Works (a copy of which is now before the Committee), directing me to proceed to Ottawa to examine and report upon the state of the works there, establish prices, &c. This duty I entered upon with the utmost reluctance, and not without remonstrating against my being called on to do so. The letter of instructions explains the reason of my having been called on to be, that as I had not been in any manner consulted as to the plans or estimates, or to the works, whether those under contract or additional, any conclusion I might arrive at for the settlement between the Department and the Contractors would be received by both parties as an unbiassed one.

6. From your report it appears that you found much difference existing between the Contractors and the Employés of the Department as to prices, &c.?—Yes, and this was one of the great difficulties I apprehended in the several reports I have made upon the subject. I endeavored to lay the matter, and all the details connected with it, as fully as possible before the Government. In the performance of this duty, I was guided alone by a desire to do strict justice between the parties, to the best of my ability.

7. It seems that the expenditure on the buildings will, according to your estimate, far exceed the account of the contract and of the appropriation?—The expenditure upon the buildings will not exceed the amount at which I estimated them before they were commenced; nor will it, in my judgment, be greater than their extent and style of workmanship justifies. The contracts will not be exceeded, inasmuch as all the work embraced in them will be completed for the bulk sum for which they were contracted for. The excess of expenditure at Ottawa, beyond the amount generally contemplated, is, and will be, upon works altogether additional to those embraced in the original contracts. About five-sixths of the additional work may be looked on as involved in the works connected with the system of heating, ventilating and sewerage adopted; in obtaining greater security against fire; in providing increased accommodation required by some of the Departments; and a large outlay had to be incurred upon additional foundation work, beyond what had been calculated for.

8. Of the total amount of the expenditure up to 1st December, 1861, as estimated by you, how much was upon contract work and how much upon additional work?—The total value of all work done and materials