PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

No. 1.—Government House.

From the nature of the construction of these Buildings, their age and condition, and probably from the imperfect arrangement of some parts of the original design, a considerable annual expense is unavoidable in their maintenance. All the Out-houses and Offices are of wood, and from the time they have been occupied, are in a state of decay, and will gradually require renewing. In the month of February last, a fire broke out in the southern wing of the main Building, in consequence of the insecure position of one of the stoves. The damage done was inconsiderable, but to guard against a recurrence of the same, the whole of the stove pipes have been overhauled, the franklins and dumb stoves re-set, and other provisions made to secure the premises from fire. In a storm in October some injury was sustained from the wind, and a portion of the fencing was destroyed in the same manner previously. This has been replaced, other necessary alterations and renewals made, and the furniture of the public reception rooms repaired and added to.

No. 2.—Legislative Buildings and Public Offices.

The Legislative Buildings and the different Public Offices have all received more or less repairs and improvements during the year. In the House of Assembly, the plaistering fell down from the lobby ceiling, and had to be renewed. The carpets throughout are much worn, and have been repaired to last over the present Session, but will require new ones before another year. Some expenses have been incurred on the premises used by the Executive Council, Auditor General, Provincial Secretary, and Surveyor General, for ordinary repairs and maintenance. In the month of November, attempts were made to rob the Fredericton Post Office, and the Crown Land Department, and some inconsiderable damage was done to the doors, &c., of the former Building, which was immediately repaired, and besides re-papering the walls, and other improvements, the Office has received in addition a new stove, table, and other furniture.

To meet the outlay for the necessary repairs of the Legislative Buildings, Public Offices, and Government House, for the ensuing season, the undersigned would recommend that the sum of £750 be placed at the disposal of Your Excellency.

No. 3.—Buildings on Hospital Island, near Saint Andrews.

In the month of October, the undersigned, accompanied by the Surveyor General, visited this Island, situated in the Bay, about 6 miles from the Town of Saint Andrews. There are four Buildings on the Island—

No. 1. Hospital, 60 feet by 25 feet. No. 2. Do. 50 " 22 " Keeper's House, 20 " 24 " Shed, a small building.

These erections were carefully examined, agreeably to the direction of Your Excellency in Council to that effect. The correspondence relative to these Buildings, and the Report on their present condition, are appended to this General Report. As there has been no necessity for their use for some time, and their present condition is such that at a short notice they might be made available, the undersigned has not thought it advisable to recommend any extensive repairs at the present time.

All the foregoing is respectfully submitted.

W. H. STEEVES, Chief Commissioner.