

No further intimation as to how matters were progressing was made public until a statement was made in the House at the close of the last session by the Commissioner of Public Works to the effect that your expert had reported against both plans submitted, because of defects in lighting, heating and ventilation, plumbing and drainage; and that the said expert had been appointed to himself prepare designs and carry out the work.

This statement was a surprise to us for many reasons, some of which are as follows:—

1st. It is against all precedent to appoint an expert to prepare designs for a building after competitive designs for the same have been submitted to his decision.

One reason why it is not considered advisable to appoint an expert who reports on a set of competitive designs, is that no temptation may be given him to report unfavorably against the designs so submitted, in the hope that the work may be eventually entrusted to himself.

2nd. The authors of the two designs under consideration having prepared no less than three sets of drawings it was presumed that the better design would have been accepted as soon as the point of relative superiority was decided.

3rd. It is always understood that the best design sent in in a competition will be accepted. Most certainly, we all fully believed that the author of the best design submitted would be appointed to carry out the work. And we firmly believe that if the competitors had for one instant thought that the action would be taken which has been taken in this matter they would have held aloof from all participation in the competition. We can also affirm that in this matter the competitors were not alone competing for a monetary reward, but for the prestige which would be theirs if they should gain the first place and be entrusted with the carrying out of the work.

4th. Because where there is reasonable doubt that the author of the best design is not able to carry out the work to a satisfactory conclusion on account of his lack of knowledge in some branches or want of experience, it is customary to associate with him or them, a man having the necessary qualifications.

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