

The gentlemen forming this Commission had a re-measurement made of the whole of the works, and examined a large number of witnesses as to their past management, value of labor and materials, and other matters connected with the subject.

At this time there had been paid to Mr. Thomas McGreevy, for work performed, the sum of \$483,163.95, and to Messrs. Jones, Haycock & Co., the sum of \$511,391.54.

On the 29th January, 1863, the Report of the Commission was submitted to the Government, containing, amongst other matters, a recommendation that the works remaining to be done should be offered to the original contractors, at a schedule of prices fixed by them (the Commissioners).

This proposition having been acceded to by the Government, and after considerable discussion, agreed to by the contractors, on the 18th April, 1863, contracts were entered into with Thomas McGreevy, for the completion of the Parliament Buildings; and with Messrs. Jones, Haycock & Clarke, for the completion of the Departmental Buildings, at a schedule of prices to be applied to the different classes and items of work.

Under this arrangement, the claims alleged by the contractors as arising out of the first contracts, were left in abeyance.

Before the new contracts were entered into, the specifications were, however, revised; and it was deemed advisable, that instead of paying the architects by commission, as formerly, they should be paid fixed salaries.

In carrying out this system, Mr. Thomas Fuller and Mr. Charles Baillairgé, were appointed joint architects for all the Buildings; and in accordance with the provisions of the new contracts, a general superintendent was also appointed.

The architects formerly in charge of the Buildings, preferred certain claims against the Government, for matters arising out of their supervision under the first contract.

The works were proceeded with, and considerable progress made in the season of 1863. During the Session of this year, the sum of \$100,000 was granted towards construction.

In May, 1864, it was deemed advisable that the Chief Engineer should proceed to Ottawa, and assume control of the works, in order that questions connected with them might be determined on the spot, and thereby avoid the delay caused by reference to the Department, then at Quebec. The method of furnishing supplies of gas and water, &c., was then decided, and the necessary works for these objects commenced.

During this season (1864), all the branches of work connected with the Buildings were urged forward as rapidly as circumstances would permit. In the Estimates for this year, a further sum of \$100,000 was appropriated towards their completion.

The contractors having repeatedly requested a settlement of the claims alleged by them to have arisen out of their first contract, and the architects having also applied for a settlement in connection with their supervision, it was decided in October, 1864, to refer these matters to special arbitration.

For this purpose the Government appointed one arbitrator, the claimants another, and these two selected a third. These three gentlemen formed a Board, before which the several cases were argued by Counsel, and evidence produced by the respective parties. The arbitrators, after a searching enquiry into the various matters brought before them, awarded to Messrs. Jones, Haycock & Clarke, in connection with their contract for the Departmental Buildings, on the 8th day of March, 1866, the sum of \$88,176, and for costs the sum of \$2,203.

In the cases of the architects, the arbitrators awarded on the 2nd day of July, 1866, to Messrs. Fuller & Jones, the sum of \$5,064, and \$181 for costs; and to Messrs Stent & Laver, the sum of \$6,931, and \$200 for costs.

In May, 1865, the services of Mr. C. Baillairgé, one of the architects, were dispensed with.

In May, 1865, it was decided that the Public Departments should be moved to Ottawa in the fall of the year, and the contractors were notified to make every exertion to have the buildings ready for their reception by that time.

The clearing and grading of the grounds was then proceeded with, and the formation of roads to the different blocks of buildings urged forward. By the month of October, the Buildings were sufficiently advanced to permit of their occupation by the several Depart-