

for the murder in *St. Sylvestre de Lotbinière*, and other information therein solicited.

For the said Return, see Appendix (No. 42.)

The Honorable Mr. *Cartier* also laid before the House, by command of His Excellency the Governor General,—Report by the Department of Public Works relative to the probable cost of erecting Public Buildings for Parliamentary and other purposes in the Cities of *Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Kingston, and Ottawa*, respectively, pursuant to an Order in Council, of 19th March, 1856.

Department of Public Works,

3rd April, 1856.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of an Order in Council, of the 19th ultimo, based upon a Resolution of the House of Assembly, and directing that “the Commissioners of Public Works be instructed to produce, within the least possible delay, Estimates for the erection of the necessary Public Buildings at the Cities of *Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa*.” That for this purpose reference be made to the Estimates already made for Public Buildings at *Toronto* and elsewhere, to establish the probable difference of the cost of construction of similar Buildings at *Montreal, Quebec, Kingston and Ottawa*”; and also, “that it should be stated what are the Grounds and Buildings belonging to the Government, or about to be transferred to the Government, which may be made available in each of the Cities above-named, for the accommodation of the Government and Legislature.”

Upon receipt of this Order, no time was lost in giving the necessary instructions to the proper officer to collect all the information in the office upon the subject, and to prepare the Estimates called for.

From the Report of Mr. *Rubidge*, the officer referred to, the following may be taken as the result of his calculations; and from the careful manner they have been made in, I am of opinion they may be considered as near the truth as can be, under the circumstances.

The only Plans and Estimates in the office, for Buildings of the class immediately under consideration, are those furnished by Messrs. *Cumberland and Storm* in 1854; but on referring to them, it was found they would not form a safe basis for the Estimates now called for. Within the last year, Plans and Estimates for various Public Buildings in several parts of the Province have been furnished to the Department by some of the principal Architects; and by calculating the respective cubic quantities in each, in connection with the amount of the Estimate, it is found in fifteen of such Estimates, the rate per cubic foot varies from 5d. to 9d., and that of twelve of the principal of them, the average rate is 6½.;—6d. per foot is assumed therefore as a safely approximating rate, on which to base the amount of outlay required.

The Estimate of Messrs. *Cumberland and Storm* was as follows:—

Parliament Buildings.....	£	51592	0	0
Department Offices.....		49553	0	0
Government House and Offices.....		21600	0	0
		£122745	0	0
Lodges, Barracks, Guard-House, Fencing, Road-making, Planting Grounds, Drainage.....		11000	0	0
		£133745	0	0

On calculating the rate per cubic foot, which this Estimate would give, it is found to be but 3¼d. The cost, therefore, is taken as under-estimated, whether