

exist in Toronto, but will look into it at the earliest moment.

Mr. CLARKE. Did the architect, Mr. Curry, recommend that this work should be given to Brown & Love without tender?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No. When the matter was discussed between the chief architect and myself, he looked up the papers and ascertained that Brown & Love were the original contractors. The architect was appointed afterwards, when it was decided that that was the best mode of proceeding with the work.

Mr. SPROULE. On what principle is the work done? Is it at a schedule price?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes. The price was agreed on between the chief architect, the contractors and the department at so much per foot.

Mr. SPROULE. What are you paying per foot?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have not here the figures which were agreed upon.

Mr. CLARKE. I suppose there will be no difficulty about bringing down the correspondence?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No objection at all. I was very sorry to know that there was a danger of the building falling down. It was an extreme case, and I thought this was the best way to proceed.

Mr. CLARKE. The firm of Brown & Love are certainly good contractors, there is no doubt of that. They have a very high and enviable reputation. There are other firms, of course. We would like to know what price has been agreed on with them.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have to take the responsibility of ordering the work to be proceeded with on the recommendation of the chief architect; and I thought it was much safer and cheaper to have it done by the men who had originally erected the building than to take new men. We will not put more on it than necessary to make the building safe. The architect has examined as closely as he could. When they come to cutting these piles they must continue the work until the building is safe.

Mr. SPROULE. The architect ought to be able to come to some conclusion now as to the repairs which have to be made.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have given the detailed description of the work to be done. We are asking for \$15,000 and hope that that will do the work.

Mr. SPROULE. They must have done most of the expensive work or as much

foundation work as would enable them to tell how they have to finish it.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The chief architect states that this will complete the work. If it does not, he will be able to give very satisfactory explanation why.

Toronto—Dominion public buildings—renewals, repairs, &c., \$8,000.

Mr. CLANCY. Would the hon. minister allow this item to stand and also the one that follows, Toronto post office. I have been requested to ask that these two items stand.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I am quite agreeable.

Items allowed to stand.

Toronto Junction—public building, \$15,000.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. This is to provide a building for post office and customs purposes. The total estimated cost is \$38,135. That includes the site and the building, as well as the fitting, heating, lighting, &c.

Mr. CLANCY. What did the site cost and how much will the building cost, and the heating, fitting and lighting?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The site cost \$4,500. Including all expenses, \$4,625. I need not give the estimated cost of the building, heating and fitting as I have already read the particulars.

Mr. CLANCY. From whom was the site bought?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The site was purchased from the Real Estate Loan Company of Canada, limited.

Mr. SPROULE. Has the contract been let?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No.

Mr. SPROULE. Then this is just an estimate. There is one pleasant feature about this. When the hon. member for that riding was running his election, he and his friends gave the word that if he were elected, there would be a good post office put up, and now the government are redeeming their promise. It is so unusual to see this government redeem any of their promises that I cannot but help giving them credit in this instance. Whether the transaction might be considered bribery or not, I am not going to discuss. Toronto Junction requires a post office and should get it. No doubt the site was bought from some very good friend of the government. I do not know whether the government paid double its value or not, but they probably paid a good round figure. They will no doubt follow that up by giving the contract to one of their friends, but I would advise them not to give it at too high a figure and then