

FREEHOLDERS OF THE CITY OF TORONTO

sum of \$600,000 for the erection of which it is its duty to furnish information concerning the proposed work. commenced in 1880, and continued from profession, jurymen and the public and again, the present Court House is used.

County Councils presented a report on the Court House at the joint expense of the County and the City. Based upon, the building to be under the proportion of the cost of maintenance foregoing, providing that the site for the erection of suitable and proper Court House, such site to be mutually agreed upon, and plans for all the buildings were to be prepared. The erection of the Court House was commenced; and, the report was adopted by the Council.

to the City two sites: (1) The portion of Queen streets; or, (2) The portion of Queen and Shuter streets. As the City Council, as agreed, both of the above

In 1884, the Court House Committee reported; and suggested that if it was not possible to settle forthwith for settlement. It was the fact that the City would be building, that the City should provide buildings. Legislation was then passed, without obtaining the assent of the Council, power was granted to the Council

proper only; and, after a great deal of delay, the portion of Bay street was selected, and

such delay the design submitted by the architect, and John Nasmith's was accepted for the foundation and basement of the

building were received, and Mr. Lionel Yorke's tender, at \$111,000, was accepted, being the lowest. The then Mayor, Mr. W. H. Howland, refused to sign this contract until funds were provided; and when the matter came before the Council, it was decided that tenders for the whole work should be asked for, in order that the total cost of the undertaking might be ascertained before the work was commenced. This action occurred in October, 1886, and nothing further was done that year beyond obtaining power from the Legislature, enabling the City to borrow an additional sum of \$425,000 for the erection of a Court House.

The same statute relieved the County and made the City alone responsible for any failure to provide suitable Court House accommodation.

By resolution of Council of February 19th, 1887, the Executive and Court House Committees were directed to hold a joint meeting for the purpose of fully examining the plans for the proposed new Court House, City Hall and Police Court, as prepared by Mr. Lennox, with instructions to report thereon at once. These Committees held a meeting as directed, and on the 28th of February, 1887, presented a joint report recommending the erection of the combined buildings, provided the property owners voted the money required in addition to the \$300,000, which had been already raised by debentures. Accordingly estimates of the total cost of the building, based upon preliminary sketches prepared by Mr. Lennox, were obtained from four of the most reliable builders in the City, as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| No. 1..... | \$ 690,000 |
| No. 2..... | 700,000 |
| No. 3..... | 668,940 |
| No. 4..... | 775,000 |
| Average being..... | 708,485 |

By-laws were then submitted to the people as follows:—

To defray cost of Court House, in addition to \$300,000 already voted...\$ 400,000

To defray extra cost of erecting combined buildings..... 350,000

Both of these By-laws received the assent of the people, who thereby authorized an expenditure of \$1,050,000 for erecting the combined buildings.

After some delay the plans and specifications were prepared in detail, and the Council of 1887 invited tenders for the following works, viz.:—

1. Masonry, etc. 2. Carpenter work. 3. Galvanized Iron work. 4. Roofing.

Upon opening these tenders, it was found that the lowest for the four works amounted in the aggregate to \$919,010; and it was decided by the Council of 1888 that inasmuch as the cost of the works not tendered for could not be satisfactorily estimated, and in order that the ratepayers might know the cost of the building, as nearly as it could be possibly ascertained, to advertise for new tenders for all the works, except carpenter work (the tender then in for this work being considered an exceptionally good one). The Committee accordingly invited tenders for all the works, specifying in the advertisement four kinds of Canadian stone for which tenders would be received.