

897. I am afraid I will have to retort to my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) and complain that he is talking to the hon. gentleman behind him while I am giving this information.

Mr. SPROULE. When is the building going to be finished?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. December, 1904, is in the contract.

Mr. SPROULE. Is there any danger that the price will be increased between now and then.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I explained to the House that this is a carefully prepared estimate, including everything that would be required for the building.

Rideau Hall—drainage, \$3,000.

Mr. SPROULE. Has the Minister of Public Works ever thought of building a new hall, or will he keep on for ever repairing the old building?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I must say that officially I have not given the matter any attention. I do wish something could be done to stop these large expenditures from year to year. But this I am given to understand is a very necessary work. The drain at present empties into the Ottawa river. It was choked up, and the odour from it was very offensive.

Mr. SPROULE. Where does it empty now?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Into the city sewage system.

Mr. SPROULE. Will this complete the work?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, the total cost is \$10,647.

Mr. SPROULE. Was the work let by tender?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No. A portion of the work was done by the city, for which the city was paid. The balance was done by day's work under officers of the department.

Mr. SPROULE. When was this work commenced?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Last summer. It will be completed in a short time.

Mr. RICHARDSON. What is the length of the sewer?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. 2,065 feet. My hon. friend must remember that the work had to be done by blasting through the rock.

Toronto Custom House—underpinning walls, \$10,000.

Mr. KEMP. Will the minister please explain the nature of that work?

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I suppose the great majority of the members of the Committee are familiar with the splendid building we have in Toronto. It was reported to the department that the piles on which the building was originally constructed were decayed, and that there was danger of the building falling down. The chief architect of the department made a careful examination, and came to the conclusion that this was correct; and the work seemed to be so necessary and so urgent for the preservation of the building, that I took the responsibility of ordering it to be commenced. This is one of the cases in which it is somewhat difficult for any one to estimate at the beginning just what the total cost will be. The chief architect estimates, however, that it will be between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The work is done in sections, six feet of the wall being taken down at a time and reconstructed. The timbers are cut away down below the water line where they are decayed, and a new foundation built up of hard brick set in cement. It is a somewhat dangerous work. I may say, as I may be criticised afterwards, that I ascertained who the original contractors on the building were, and as they were responsible and reliable men who could be depended on, I authorized the chief architect to make an arrangement with them to do this work. If I had let it by tender to other contractors, and a mistake were made, there would be great danger of a valuable building being lost.

Mr. CLARKE. What are the names of the contractors?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Brown & Love.

Mr. KEMP. Is it the main building or the examining warehouse?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The custom house itself.

Mr. CLARKE. I understand that no tender was asked for, but that you gave the work to Brown & Love without tender?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. They gave a price, and it was agreed on between them and the chief architect under my authority. I did not ask for any other tender.

Mr. CLARKE. Who supervises the work?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The architect's name is Mr. Curry.

Mr. KEMP. Has the minister had any application from the officers at Toronto looking to the enlargement of the buildings there, or are they considered large enough for the work at the present time?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I have had applications from all over the Dominion for increased accommodation, including Toronto. I have not been able to inform myself of the necessity that may