

mental Building, with an estimate of the amount to complete the same. He said—  
 —I do not intend to make any lengthy statement of reasons why I think it necessary to put this notice of motion on the minutes, but I must say I think it necessary to call the attention of the Government, hon. members, and the country to the very large outlay that has been made on the several subjects which I have included in my notice. It will be obvious to all members who come here session after session that works have been going on since the first session of Parliament here after [Confederation; that costly plans have been adopted and changed, that large sums of money have been expended, and that this expenditure is still going on. My object is to have in a succinct form the aggregate amount that has been expended on these grounds and buildings. The Government adopted a certain plan with respect to the grounds; they were levelled and prepared with compost, trees were planted, and walks laid out; subsequently another plan was adopted, the trees were removed, the grounds were changed, and more expense was incurred. There appears to be no system, no matter what Government is in power, and the expenditure on these grounds and buildings seems to go on perpetually. I have heard it stated that Mr. Marshall Wood had prepared a scheme and an estimate for the grounds that was, to a certain extent, adopted; then it was changed by the present Government, and another plan was adopted, showing a want of system. In reference to the library, hon. gentlemen will see it is a most magnificent building, but I may say that I fear that its utility has been sacrificed for architectural effect. The building is a very beautiful one, but when the book shelving is in, there will not be sufficient light.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman says that large expenditures have been made in laying out these grounds in front of the buildings. The plans were changed at the time the Government came into power. We found that not a contract, but half a contract, had been passed to level these grounds, so as to adapt them to plans proposed by Mr. Wood. The expense in carrying out that plan would have been in the neighbourhood of half a million, so that it was abandoned, and we only levelled the ground and placed a wall in front. As to the library, the defect in the plans has been certainly observed by many other persons, that the

light is insufficient, but this was the plan adopted long ago, which had been examined by competent persons, but it was only when the work was finished that the defect in the lighting of the building was noticed. There is no objection to the address, and I hope the hon. gentleman will find that the expenditure has been within the limit of the estimate.

The motion was carried

• GEORGIAN BAY BRANCH RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. READ moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence between the contractors of the Georgian Bay Branch Railway and the Government since the date of the contract. This motion is one of great importance to the country. I think when the papers come down we will find that the great trans-continental railway, that has been so much talked of, had better be reconsidered. We have seen it in the papers, and have heard it from other authority, that the branch line about to be built to French River is to be materially changed from the route laid down by the Premier, and the cost will be a great deal more than Government has anticipated. The papers tell us that the contractor requires quite a different bargain from what he commenced upon. Not only does he require a larger bonus, but, as far as I can understand, he requires a change of route and grades, as the road cannot be built where it is laid down on the western end, the country being a tract of mountains, rocks, and ravines, impracticable for railway purposes. We are told that the terminus is to be located twenty-six miles up French River, instead of at the mouth, and that locks will have to be built at the mouth of the river, to make another "water stretch," so that it looks like as if the people will have to be amphibious to travel from one side of the country to the other. We are told also, that the contractor wants the money consideration changed from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per mile, with an increased guarantee of interest. I hope when these papers come down, it will be found that the Government have taken action to stop the waste of public money in this direction. I think that this application for better terms will be a good chance for the Government to get rid of this contract, and save a large expenditure of money on a useless undertaking.