

(No. 52,958.)

MEMORANDUM prepared in accordance with the Address of the Legislative Assembly of the 4th April, 1861.

I.—A Copy of the Contract entered into with Charles Garth, of Montreal, for the Heating and Ventilation of the Parliament and Departmental Buildings at Ottawa, is furnished herewith.

Copies of the Contracts for the erection of the Parliament and Departmental Buildings were furnished by this Department on the 15th May, 1860, in answer to the Address of the Assembly of the 30th April, 1860, and it is therefore considered unnecessary to furnish them a second time.

No other Contracts have as yet been entered into in connection with the Public Buildings at Ottawa.

As regards "what alteration, modification or extension of the Plans have been ordered," the following statement and documents are given:—

1. A copy of the Departmental Order to the Architects of the Departmental Buildings, of the 10th December, 1859, for—

(1.) Changing the position of the Eastern block, so that the principal front should face on the square instead of facing on Wellington Street. (2.) To alter the position of the small Tower of that block, and place it at the Eastern end of the Wellington Street front. (3.) To alter the arrangement of the small Turret in the Western block, in order to render the room more available. (4.) To do away with the projection of the Photograph Room, and provide another in the roof of the Western block.

2. A Copy of the Departmental Order to the Architects of the Parliament Buildings, of the 12th December, 1859:—(1.) To leave openings in the basement walls to render the rooms available. (2.) To convert portions of the basement into Fuel Vaults, and make the through passages large enough to take through a cart or truck. (3.) To leave open passages through basement walls, for laying Gas and Water pipes. (4.) To change the position of the Water-closets and Urinals from the side of the principal entrance lobby to the adjoining rooms.

3. A Copy of the Departmental Order to the Architects of the 13th July, 1860, for the substitution of Sandstone for Limestone in the Rubble facing of the external walls, as authorized by the Order in Council of the 2nd June, 1860, for the purpose of ensuring the employment of a durable material, and for diminishing the risk of accident by fire; but limiting the expenditure, for this purpose, on all the buildings, Parliamentary and Departmental, to \$36,330.

4. The system of Heating and Ventilation not having been decided on at the time the Building Contracts were entered into, it was necessary to provide, in order not to interfere with the operations of the Building Contractors, that they should themselves, as stated in the last Annual Report of this Department, execute all the mason's and brick-layer's work connected therewith, that they should construct the drains from the boiler houses, the cold air ducts and warm air vaults, the flues in partitions for conducting the warm air to the several Departments, and those likewise for carrying off the vitiated air. All the works of this class, not being fully known at the time, could not of course be entirely embraced in the prices of the Building Contracts: but they were provided for to a certain extent, or as far as could be anticipated. The difference between what is specified in the Building Contracts, and what has since been decided upon as necessary, may fairly be considered as additional to the Contract price.

5. Owing to the irregularity of the upper surface of the rock forming the foundations for these Buildings; to the unsoundness of some of its upper strata, and to the insufficiency of the material resting upon it for forming a proper foundation, a certain amount of excavation and masonry has necessarily been incurred, which it is fair to consider additional to the contract price.

6. In furnishing detail plans and instructions to the Contractors, as provided by Contract, the Architects have ordered some minor changes, and in some instances have directed increased thickness to be given to the walls, in order to insure their perfect stability—the difference of expense between which and the original plans will have to be paid for according to the terms of the Contract.