

tents, enlargement became a necessity which must be faced. Accordingly, within the past year or two, the Western Departmental Block has been enlarged by the erection of a new wing, with a frontage to the Chaudière Falls, as will be seen from the foregoing engraving. Hitherto the block has been regarded as the least attractive of the three; but the new wing, though its effect is unfortunately somewhat hidden by the older and much less pretentiously designed portion—has nevertheless been a great improvement. The buildings generally are described in Mr. Page's Report to the Minister of Public Works (1867), as of pointed Gothic architecture, after the model of the 12th century. What is the technical title of the style of the new western wing, dependent ventures not to say. That it is Gothic is evident; that it is not pure Gothic is equally evident; but as to what period the modification belongs, those who ought to know do not seem to be agreed. The probable cost of the addition is also one of those things which "no fellow can find out." Estimates have been published purporting to convey at least some approximate idea of it, but they are without authority, and not worth the paper they are written upon. The contractors for carpenter work, painting, plastering, glazing and furnishing are just now busily engaged in fitting up the offices for occupation, for which it is expected they will be ready next autumn. What changes will then take place in the distribution of the Departments has not yet been decided upon. In the western block at present are the offices of the Departments of Public Works, Militia, Post-office, Marine and Agriculture. The completion of the new wing will doubtless see the number added to. This much has already been determined, that the Minister of Public Works, with the large staff under his direction, will be transferred into the new portion on the earliest opportunity. Mr. Mac-

kenzie will then have—what he very much needs now—a commodious room for himself, with a private entrance. The story goes that the Postmaster-General also fancied the new wing, and, had with the concurrence of the Premier, resolved to remove the Post-Office Department thither, but that, in consequence of the opposition of a prominent officer, the resolution was abandoned. Practical experience has developed two rather serious drawbacks in the construction of the Departmental Buildings—want of proper light, and miserable ventilation. The first is inseparable from the style of the architecture; but the modification of that style which has been introduced has in respect of the addition of which we have just been speaking, in a large measure overcome the difficulty. The offices will be larger, too, presumably offering greater facilities for ventilation, and enabling one chief clerk to personally supervise a great many assistants. Whether, however, having so many men together will be a help or a hindrance to the transaction of public business, even with all the advantages of direct superintendence, time must be left to tell. The height of the central tower, (which is not yet complete, although it so appears in the frontispiece, which is copied from the architect's design) has been stated at 275 feet; but that point is not yet quite settled. At any rate, it is certain to overtop, by a good many feet, the tower which surmounts the main entrance to the Parliament Buildings.

The eastern block is regarded by *connoisseurs* as the most classically constructed of the three, the leading entrance, which is from Wellington street, and under the main tower, being an especial feature. About the centre of the wing, facing Parliament Square, the offices of the Governor-General are also reached by a very fine entrance. The Departments of Finance, Customs, Inland Revenue, Interior, Justice, State,