

statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross Robertson) that they do not all deserve to be allowed to compete, and that some should even be ruled out; but, when the hon. gentleman says that we should extend the competition to foreign artists, I think he is mistaken. When tenders were asked for Sir George E. Cartier's statue, from twenty to twenty-five models were received from France, Italy, England and the United States, and were exhibited in the Parliament Library. Now, when the competition took place, it was found that not a single one of those examples coming from the most renowned studios in the world could hold comparison either as to sculptural beauty or as to likeness with that which had been modelled by Philippe Hébert, who was then taking his steps in that career, and who is now a justly renowned artist. I have heard the matter discussed by competent men and I have no hesitation in saying that I do not see the necessity of re-opening the competition, as suggested. In my opinion, there is no reason why we should invite the competition of European artists, in order to obtain what we wish. The models exhibited by Hébert in the National Gallery, portraying Her Majesty the Queen and the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie give indisputable evidence of talent of the highest order and should be accepted without opposition. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross Robertson) seems to think that those models are not life-like representations. It cannot be denied that the pedestal of Mackenzie's statue is a splendid piece of art. As to the matter of likeness, that can easily be remedied. The pedestal represents an admirable conception, and expressed in a truly striking manner industry, energy, and love of duty.

As to the model of the Queen, while it is not a life-like representation of Her Majesty as she appeared on Jubilee day last year, it is a good likeness of the Queen, as she was ten years ago. I have but scanty notions of sculpture, but I understand that when a sculptor wishes to perpetuate a personage by a statue it is not absolutely necessary for him to represent that personage as he appears at the very moment when the artist is doing his work. Leaving aside the question of actual likeness, which, after all, is of secondary importance, I say that these models denote genius and art carried to their highest pitch. They have been closely examined by competent artists, who are all agreed that nothing better could be produced. The delays having now expired, I hope the Government will give this order to Mr. Hébert, our Canadian artist, whose reputation is daily growing and who, even in Europe, has reaped well-earned laurels. In the city of Quebec some of his statues now embellish the facade of the parliamentary buildings. At Chambly, he has made a bronze statue of de Salaberry. Here, in Ottawa, we have his statues of Cartier and Macdonald. Under the circumstances, I do

Mr. LEMIEUX.

not think the hon. Minister should hesitate a single moment to entrust the execution of these two monuments to a Canadian artist who may, besides, get information from a competent jury.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) I have but a word or two to add to the eloquent words just fallen from the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux). I fully concur in what he said about the small encouragement given in this country to artists and literary men of talent. This is a favourable opportunity to encourage our Canadian artist and to show that we appreciate to its just value the master-piece he has produced and which is a credit to our country. I think the hon. member for Gaspé has sounded the right note. I have examined those models and some of the best pieces of art executed by Mr. Hébert and I think the House will agree that he should be selected to execute these pieces of art, so as to enable him to still further develop the talent of which he has given us so many evidences so far.

Mr. HUGHES. Has the Minister selected the sites for those statues?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Not yet.

Mr. HUGHES. I would draw the attention of the Minister to the disgraceful condition in which the vestibule at the entrance to the Parliament Building is kept. The condition is such that many persons would not tolerate it in their stables. I do not blame the Minister, but I would suggest that he give some of his friends in Ottawa a job to scrape the old paint off the pillars there. I give notice to the Minister that on concurrence, I shall ask for details about the building of that new Kaministiquia dredge, and I will also be pleased if the Minister would be good enough to bring down the estimate, harbour by harbour, as to the share of the province of Ontario in that \$60,000 for dredging?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I will do the best I can to comply with that request.

Resolutions to be reported.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What business will be taken up to-morrow?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The resolution respecting the death of Mr. Gladstone; the resolution respecting the judges, and then Supply.

Mr. FOSTER. What supply?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We have not decided yet, but I think the Minister of Militia expected to go on with his Estimates to-night.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 1.10 a.m. (Thursday).