

“ are kept in an Iron Safe, and would suggest that two others be procured, which
“ would be sufficient to secure the most material portion of the Books and Docu-
“ ments of the Department. Yet in the erection of Public Buildings, I consider,
“ that Fire-proof Safety Vaults should be constructed, as being decidedly preferable
“ to the former.”

Honorable Mr. Cayley, Inspector General, coincides with Mr. Dickinson, and says: “ I am strongly in favor of Brick Vaults where practicable.”

Mr. Anderson, Deputy Receiver General, says:—“ The Banking, Special Fund, and Municipal Securities, deposited in this Department are, I consider, perfectly safe, being in Fire-proof Safes; but as regards the Books, Vouchers, and other Records of the Department, they are anything but safe, being in mere wooden cases. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of the Receiver General and Inspector Generals' Departments being in separate buildings, and not as they now are; the one up and the other down stairs in the same building.”

Honorable Mr. Taché, Receiver General, says:—“ I do not hesitate to state, that I do not consider the archives of my office are in a position of greater safety than they were at Quebec, when I had the honor to address a letter, dated 16th October, having reference to the same subject, for the information of the Committee on Public Accounts then sitting.

“ The Department has indeed been moved from Quebec to Toronto, and located in a building belonging to the Province, instead of being in a private rented house, as it was in Quebec, but no more here than there, are there any vaults in which the archives might be deposited and preserved in safety. Salamander Safes, supposed to be able to resist fire, contain the Debentures deposited, and those belonging to certain special funds, and that is all. I am of opinion, that it would be a very difficult matter to make the expenditure necessary to place the public archives in safety before the question of the Seat Government is definitely settled, and an end thus put to all agitation on the subject.

“ In the meanwhile, perhaps, the Inspector General's Department might be placed in one of the wings of the Parliament Buildings, while my Department might remain in the other. By so doing, it is probable that in case of fire, the archives in one or other of the wings might be saved, and thus a great part of the archives, which are for the most part the same, in both Departments, would be preserved.

“ This arrangement, however, would not be without inconvenience, considering the immediate and constant relations existing between my Department and that of the Inspector General.”

Your Committee believe that so long as the various Departments of Government occupy buildings not specially prepared and constructed for the safety from fire of the Documents and Records belonging to each Department, it will be impossible to provide effectually for their security, but Your Committee unanimously concur in the suggestions made by Deputy Receiver General Anderson, and the Receiver General, Colonel Taché, that it would be advisable to separate the offices of Receiver and Inspector General from each other, in the building where they are now located, the one being up and the other down stairs, and place one of the Departments in the east wing of the Parliament Building, so as to secure more easily in case of fire the Books and Records belonging to one or other of the Departments, which it appears are to a great extent copies of each other.

JOHN YOUNG,
Chairman.

Toronto, 12th March, 1856.