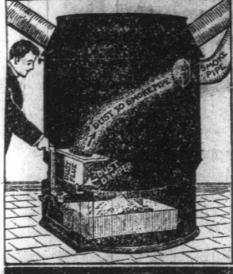


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SCOTT EXPLAINS BUILDING CONTRACT

Shoulders the Responsibility on the Architect who Says Regina Contractors are not Financially Strong Enough and Work is not Satisfactory.

There is great dissatisfaction with the contract for the parliament buildings being let to the firm of Montreal contractors and there is good reason. We publish below the interview Mr. Scott gives to himself for the benefit of his newspaper and his upholding of the award will not raise him in the eyes of thinking men. The contract was considered for many days and eventually Architect Maxwell sent for. His letter speaks for itself. Of course by the higher tender being accepted he makes more money. The L'Yall tender is about \$118,150 higher than the tender of Snyder, Willoughby & Co., and about \$50,000 higher than Smith Bros. & Wilson.

Mr. Maxwell tries to cast reflections on the work done by these firms. That of course is only a very weak argument, for local firms could as well afford to get the skilled men as could the L'Yalls. His greatest objection to the Regina tenderers, however, seems to be on the financial question, and that argument will not hold water. In the first place they put up all the security that was asked by the government, and if the government and architect who called for tenders thought the security stated was insufficient, why was it not increased? We have heard it stated that the aggregate wealth of the Snyder, Willoughby & Co. members is about \$2,000,000, and that surely was sufficient guarantee. We understand that Smith Bros. & Wilson, had about \$300,000 in cash available for to go on with this work. With the local people having only the parliament building on their hands, would they not be as able with their concentration to finance the work as the L'Yall firm who have work in hand all over the continent.

Not one valid reason has been advanced why this contract was awarded to P. Lyall & Sons, and Mr. Scott will have some more excuses to make yet before the people will be able to swallow. The province will lose about \$100,000 of money which is much needed for roads, and bridges etc.

Here is a copy of the letter sent out to the unsuccessful tenderers: Sir: I have the honor to notify you that the government have awarded the contract for the legislative and executive buildings to Messrs P. Lyall & Sons of Montreal, and the cheque for \$100,000 which accompanied your tender is returned herewith. I am instructed to explain that owing to five out of six tenders received being below the architect's estimate of cost, the lowest being more than \$200,000 below that estimate, it was deemed necessary to bring the architect from Montreal so as to consult with him upon the tenders, and also to obtain reports upon the financial standing of each tenderer, which was done through Messrs R. G. Dunn & Co. The steps consumed the time elapsing since the tenders were opened on June 32. The award has been made upon the report submitted after very careful enquiry by the architect, which report is open to your inspection at this department. Your obedient servant, F. F. ROBINSON, Deputy Commissioner.

Here is the interview which Mr. Scott gave the Leader: Premier and Minister of Public Works, Regina. Sir, With reference to the tenders received on the 22nd inst, for the legislative and executive building and power house, and now receiving con-

sideration, I respectfully beg to state that it is essential that the party to whom the contract is awarded should be a firm of sufficient experience in the erection of large and important monumental structures to ensure its completion strictly in accordance with the high class of work that is demanded by the plans and specifications and in a manner that will be a credit to all concerned.

The quality of work that we will demand in every particular, is such that we fall to find incorporated in any of the structures in this part of the country that we have examined, and my examination has been careful and critical of most of the structures of any importance in your city. In some of them the structural and architectural parts I would class as only fair, while in the majority of cases it would rank as work of very inferior quality indeed and not to be entertained for a moment as fit to enter into your building.

It is most essential that the contractor be particularly well equipped and thoroughly capable in the art of properly cutting and building stone work of a monumental character and only those in whom the principals of the firm have had large experience and a thorough training in this respect, are in my opinion capable of doing full justice to your work. Another very necessary and most important qualification is that the firm be of sufficient financial standing to carry it through to a successful completion, and in order to do this should have at their command a sum of at least \$450,000. One who is handicapped in this respect may occasion endless delays, lawsuits and losses to the government, even if the amount of profit in the contract is sufficiently large to handsomely remunerate the contractor, but should the contract be taken at a figure so low as to afford no profit, or that it will prove a loss to the contractor, it may be taken as a foregone conclusion that your building will not be carried to completion without endless trouble and a largely increased expenditure over the contract sum.

This is an experience that has happened on more than one occasion on both private and public work, and is an eventuality to be avoided at any cost.

In considering the six tenders received I would recommend that the items quoted on by each contractor be extended so as to cover the erection of the building in Tyndall stone and brick, with the increased boiler capacity, oak finish on all floors, humidification of the atmosphere and temperature regulation included. The firms who tendered, with their respective bids, would accordingly work out as follows: 1. Snyder, Willoughby & Co., \$1,311,000. 2. Smith Bros. & Wilson, \$1,370,396. 3. May Sharp Construction Co., \$1,373,240. 4. P. Lyall & Sons, \$1,424,150. 5. Thos Kelly & Sons, \$1,429,694. 6. John Quinlan, \$1,563,625.

With reference to the first a letter accompanied the bid stating who are the individual members who would compose the firm, and that the capital would be \$140,000, which in my opinion is wholly inadequate with which to attempt to execute this contract. With this limitation and the amount of the tender a smaller figure than I consider it could be executed for, I cannot advise serious consideration of this bid. The plant owned by this firm as far as I can find out, is composed of but a few derricks, etc., and quite insufficient.

As to bid No. 2 the reports on the financial resources of the firm are not such as lead one to believe that they would be able to carry the work to completion without finding themselves in serious trouble, while the amount of the bid is such as to leave but little if any margin over the cost of executing the work. I am advised by this firm as far as I can find out, is composed of but a few derricks, etc., and quite insufficient.

As to bid No. 3, I understand that this firm have not complied with the conditions of the tender as to the supplying of an accepted cheque as security for the due consideration of a contract. Their tender is therefore in my estimation null and void and should not be considered inasmuch as it does not fulfill the conditions that all bidders are required to observe.

This leaves bids Nos. 4 and 5 from parties who in my opinion are fully capable of properly carrying out the work in an efficient manner, and are possessed of the necessary plant and financial resources to do it full justice.

On my last visit to your city on May 18 and 19th I handed to your deputy commissioner a detailed estimate of what I considered the buildings could be erected for, made from carefully prepared quantities, taken of for each trade, and priced at reasonably low figures, such as are prevalent at the present time. This estimate amounted to \$1,493,200 exclusive of the cost of the larger boiler plant, oak finish, humidification and temperature control, these latter items being worth in the neighborhood of \$25,000.

In comparison with my estimate as above it is quite evident that bid No. 4 of \$1,424,150 is a reasonable one and I doubt if the work could be carried to completion and receive full justice for a less figure. It is well known that the prices

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prevailing today for labor and material are considerably lower than they were nine months ago, but there is no assurance that they are going to remain at this low level, and with the returning flow of prosperity that appears imminent the probability is that there will be a quick advance to the former high prices, so that it is very essential that your contractor be a man of sufficient financial ability to stand this impending increase and consequent diminution in the profit on the work.

In Messrs. P. Lyall & Sons you have every reasonable assurance that if awarded the contract they will complete it in a creditable and satisfactory manner. With reference to bid No. 5 from Kelly & Sons, I have noted that they were several days after the tenders are in, stating that they made an error in their calculations of \$125,344 and their bid should be reduced by this amount, which would bring it \$6,950 below the bid of Messrs. Snyder Bros. & Willoughby making it the lowest tender received. This error occurred by including the work below grade 103 in the price for work above grade 103, while it is distinctly stated that these works shall be kept separate and distinct as to price.

This explanation of Messrs Kelly & Sons should not be considered as it would be an injustice to allow any bidder to change his figures after he had an opportunity of conferring with his competitors and probably comparing figures with them.

The whole respectfully submitted. (Signed) EDWARD MAXWELL. Before we received the tenders I had the deputy commissioner prepare an estimate of the necessary capital. His estimate exceeded \$400,000. Mr. Maxwell's made quite independently was \$450,000. The syndicate making the lowest bid only proposed to put in \$140,000, which was a factor leading the architect to question their comprehension of the magnitude of the work. His decision against the lowest tender was based on three grounds. 1. The work could not be performed for the amount. 2. The proposed capital was less than one-third that required, and 3. The class of work, heretofore performed by the bidders was not good enough for our building. These were not the government opinions, but they were opinions which the government could not overlook.

Mr. Scott went on to deny the rumors that unfair advantage had been given to the successful firm and stated that local sub-contractors would be given opportunities of assisting in the work of construction. Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, etc.

Laughlets and Thinklets

A teacher in one of the Chicago schools called an incorrigible to her desk, and grasping him firmly said: "Young man, the devil certainly has hold of you!" "Guess yer right mum."—The Bohemian.

"If Smithers undertakes to pull my ears," said a fellow at the street corner, "he will have his hands full!" The crowd looked at the man's ears and smiled.—Sacred Heart Review.

Just think how tickled you would be over a rainy day if you ran an umbrella store.

"Our talented subretrie," announced the stage manager, "will now endeavor to entertain the audience with a few take-offs." "Come along paw," snorted Maw Hoptoad, "I hain't a-goin' to stand for no undressin' scene."—Houston Chronicle.

"I will be your valentine," said the young man. A shadow passed across the face of the girl. "I was so in hopes that I would not get any comics this year," she said.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A pull doesn't do any good unless you have push enough to hold your own.

"Let me see some black kid gloves said the lady to a shopman. "These are not the latest style are they?" she asked when the gloves were produced.

"Yes, madam," replied the shopman, "we have had them in stock only two days." "I didn't think they were, because the fashion paper says black kids have tan stitches, and vice versa. I see the tan stitches, but not the vice versa."

The shopman explained that vice versa was French for seven buttons, so she bought three pairs.—Detroit Free Press.

Lady: "I'm looking for a governess for my children." Manager of Intelligence Office: "Didn't we supply you with one last week?" "Yes."

"Well, madam, according to her report you don't need a governess. You need a lion-tamer."—Life.

Misses (astounded) "You can't read Nora? Good gracious! How did you ever learn to cook so well?" New Cook: "Shore mum, Oi lay it 't not 'em' able to read th' cook-books."—Town and Country.

The dark brown taste the morning after comes from painting the town red the night before.

A MATTER OF SELECTION Said a vulgar little girl who was sneering at another. In accents that were very far from mild, "You ain't got no father, you ain't got no mother— You ain't nothin' but a horrid, dopted child!"

"I'm quite as good as you," came the answer from the other. "I was carefully selected from a lot."

But only look at you—your father and your mother Had to keep you if they wanted to or not!" —Geo. Birdseye in Boston Globe.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria. Professor (awakening) "Is there any body in this room?" Burglar: "No sir."

Professor: "Oh, I thought there was." Falls asleep again.—The Jewish Ledger.

Marrying a man to reform him is getting the horse before the automobile. Experience is a good teacher all right, but she ought to get a bigger salary.

MINARD'S LINIMENT Co., Ltd. Gents.—I cured a valuable hunting dog of mange with MINARD'S LINIMENT after several veterinaries had treated him without doing him any permanent good. Yours etc. WILFRID GAGNE, Prop. of Grand Central Hotel, Drummondville, Aug. 3, '04.

R. E. H. MAN H. K. GOLLNICK, Manager

Look out for the man who is always telling how honest he is. Maggie (calling up stairs): "The gas stove went out, mum." Mistress: "Well light it!" Maggie: "It went out through the roof, mum."—Success Magazine.

Ideas, like rich relatives, are not very frequent visitors—so make the best of them when they do come.

Several large fortunes have been made by picking up money that has been thrown away.

A Lesser Half.—"I want a man to do odd jobs about the house, run on errands, one that never answers back and is always ready to do my bidding."

"You're looking for a husband, ma'am, not a man."—Jewish Ledger.

Mrs. Benham: "What are you going to do with that hair restorer?" Benham: "I'm going to use a little on my head and the rest on that hair mattress of yours."—New York Press

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