

very imperfect "shell-rock," and that it would be dangerous to the stability of the building to begin to build at the point contemplated until they had obtained a solid foundation at both parts. The Department considered it necessary to make so much extra excavation as might be required in order to have a solid foundation. I did not foresee that any very large additional expenditure would be required to obtain a solid foundation.

Honorable J.  
Rose.  
22nd May, 1

49. All the Engineers and Architects of the Board of Works seem to agree in saying that no sufficient time was allowed : 1st, to examine into a proper system of heating and ventilation ; 2nd, to sink test pits in order to know the exact nature and formation of the ground where the foundations were to be laid ; 3rd, to look for the quarries which could be most advantageously worked : what is the true reason why such necessary preliminary steps were not allowed to be taken ?—The Architects had certainly what they considered sufficient time to complete their specifications. With reference to the system of heating and ventilating, I think the Committee will find it was advertised for on the 14th November, the designs to be furnished until the 30th December, and I think the time was extended till about three weeks after that date. The designs were offered to public competition, not only in Canada, but throughout the United States, and I believe all the scientific men in Canada who had been accustomed to heat and ventilate large buildings competed. They knew what the plans for the buildings were, and I do not think there was any complaint that sufficient time had not been allowed for preparing designs for heating and ventilating the buildings. As regards the quarries, I do not think there was any complaint about want of time. There is no doubt that the change from the limestone to the sandstone which I conceived was purely a matter of taste, necessitated the use of new quarries. In reply to the last part of the question, I have to say that I am aware of no other reason for urgency than that it was considered desirable to carry into practical effect the decision with reference to the Seat of Government as speedily as possible. Without admitting the facts assumed in the question, I am aware of no other reason.

50. How is it that you were never apprised of the extent of excavations which were made for the application of the heating and ventilating apparatus ?—I think that is a question which the officers, whose duty it is to visit the buildings periodically, and who were on the spot watching the operations from day to day, should be called upon to answer. Upon them devolved the responsibility. The officers I refer to are the Architects, the Engineers, and the Clerk of Works.

51. What induced the Board to give the Contracts without any provision whatever being made in the plans for the construction and location of air ducts, ventilating shafts, boiler house, and, in short, for the application of such indispensable works as those connected with the heating and ventilating of the buildings ?—Provision is made in the contracts for the ordinary works connected with ordinary heating and ventilating ; but the system ultimately adopted, which required the particular works mentioned in the question, had not been decided upon at the time the Buildings themselves were let.

52. Were you ever informed, before the plans were finally