

able, eloquent and learned speech of the member for Centre Wellington, displaying as it did such marks of the ability and labour which had been bestowed upon it, and the journals of this city gave a report of that very able speech, occupying just nine or ten lines, while others far shorter and displaying much less research, occupied half a column. In the same reports, the attacks on the member for Lambton were given very fully, and his reply was scarcely noticed. He thought the seat of Government should be located where public opinion would be at least strong enough to compel the journals to give impartial reports. These things all tended to strengthen the probability of a removal from Ottawa, and in view of them and of the probable extension of the Dominion, he thought it would be unwise to spend more money on these buildings just now.

Hon. Mr. McDougall said there was no proposition to spend money on these buildings, except what the Government actually owed for work already done and for work absolutely necessary to keep the buildings in repair—an expense which he regretted to say was very considerable. It would also be necessary to meet the views which had been expressed in the House as to fencing the grounds and planting them with trees or shrubs. Beyond this, Government did not propose to incur any further expenditure at present. The honourable gentleman's remarks therefore, as to the removal of the seat of Government and unfair reporting of the debates, were hardly pertinent to the particular item.

Mr. D. A. McDonald would inform the honourable gentleman (Mr. Bodwell) that such a thing as public opinion was unknown in this section of Canada. For his own part, he hoped before he left public life to see the seat of Government leave this city and go to Montreal or Quebec. Was this the place for a seat of Government? Not for a moment. He was killed with the hospitality of the place. (Laughter).

Mr. Gibbs jokingly alluded to the vote he once gave for half a million to finish the Parliamentary buildings. That vote almost choked him. (Laughter). He had been in the habit of paying 2½ per cent commission in the way of business; but what the particular vote in question cost him when he last appeared before his constituents, he thought it would be difficult to tell. (Laughter). It must have cost him at least the 2½ per cent. (Laughter). He for one hated these Parlia-

mentary Buildings, towers, grounds, and all—(loud laughter)—and hoped he would not be asked to vote any more money on their account.

Hon. Mr. McDougall said that the sum now asked was to cover the balance due various parties, and to fence the grounds with a railing.

Mr. Mackenzie hoped the Minister of Public Works would at the next stage of this measure be prepared to give the House more satisfactory explanations regarding this sum. It was a fact, not perhaps generally known, that the annual cost of the maintenance of the Parliamentary and Departmental buildings was some \$10,000 or \$15,000 more than the entire cost of the buildings occupied by the Legislature of Quebec. Then the slating was more than half destroyed, and would have to be renewed in a year or two. Besides, owing to the adoption of the Gothic style of architecture, a style only suitable for ecclesiastical buildings, they had not only too little light in all the rooms, but the walls were so damp that the employees who lived in the buildings were almost continually ill. (Hear, hear). Under all the circumstances, it was questionable whether further expenditure should be incurred in such structures in such a place.

Mr. Chamberlin said a fence might be a very ornamental and desirable thing, but a library was better. At present, the books in the library were rapidly getting spoiled by water and hot air, and were so crowded together that there was no getting at them.

Mr. Blanchet said that in every way the Legislature was better off in Quebec.

The item was adopted with the remaining items—for harbours, piers, and lighthouses, \$120,000; roads and bridges, \$6,000; slides and booms, \$15,000; rents and repairs of public buildings, \$80,500; surveys and inspections, \$15,000; arbitrations and awards, \$14,000; miscellaneous charges, \$10,000; ocean and river steam service, \$129,600; lighthouses and coast service, \$204,622; marine hospitals, \$37,000; fisheries, \$36,800; culling timbers, \$75,000; railway and steamboat inspection, \$11,550; seigniorial indemnities, \$6,000; Indians, \$8,400; miscellaneous, \$211,312.44; collection of revenues, \$563,261; inland revenues and remaining items to 125.

The Committee rose and reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

The House adjourned at 12 minutes past two o'clock.

[Mr. Bodwell (Oxford South).]