

FIRST REPORT

From the Select Standing Committee on

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE:

Honble. Mr. YOUNG (Chairman,)	Mr. MASSON,
Mr. HOLTON,	“ FERRIE,
“ PATRICK,	“ CLARK,
“ EVANTUREL,	“ MATTICE,
“ GAMBLE,	“ RHODES,
Honble. Mr. MERRITT,	“ SOMERVILLE,
“ CHAPAIS,	“ SOUTHWICK,
“ DEWITT,	“ WHITNEY.

The Committee on Public Accounts respectfully submit their
First Report:—

1.—Dangers from Fire.

Your Committee, having been admonished by past occurrences in relation to the safety of the Provincial Records and Accounts, against loss or damage from fire, commenced their investigations, by an inquiry, as to the safety of said records and accounts, in possession of the several Departments in Toronto.

Letters addressed to the different Heads of Departments were forwarded, requiring the opinion of those having the Public Documents under their immediate charge, with any suggestions relative to additional safety, they might be able to offer to the Committee. Replies have been received in answer from all the Heads of Departments, with the exception of the Crown Lands, Provincial Secretary, and the Attorney Generals East and West. These answers, so far as received, are respectfully submitted for the consideration of the House. Mr. Begly, Secretary of Public Works, says:—“That there is neither a Fire-proof Safe nor Vault in the Building at present occupied by this Department, which, however, is only a temporary accommodation, until the office can be moved into the building which it was originally intended to occupy, and which contains a good fire-proof vault of brick.”

Mr. Griffin, Secretary of the Post Office Department, says:—“That the more valuable Books and Records belonging to the Department are kept in capacious Iron Safes, of approved construction, and that owing to the character of the building now occupied, the ordinary registers and papers have never, since the transfer of this Department to the Province, in 1851, been more securely lodged, as respects danger from fire, than at this moment.”

Mr. Dickinson, Acting Deputy Inspector General, says:—“The Public Records of this Department are not sufficiently protected from damage or loss by fire, with the exception of the Security Bonds of the Public Accounts, which