

Valley Brick Yards and Mackenzie & Mann's Railway Yards on the Don Flats; and a revetment wall had to be built at an expenditure of thousands of dollars, apparently to make sure that the lordly pile would not slip down into the valley below.

When one considers the closeness of the baronial pile to the residence of the Chief Justice of Ontario, one wonders why he did not protest against an extravagant expenditure unparalleled in the history of any Province. He could not have remembered the part that he took in the debates in the Ontario Legislature in 1880 when he was Leader of the Opposition. That was the time when the Mowat Government was contemplating the erection of the present Parliament Buildings in Queen's Park, Toronto, which stand as a monument to the energy, ability and conscientious honesty of the Hon. Christopher Findlay Fraser, the best Minister of Public Works the Province of Ontario ever had. Everyone who remembers the old Parliament Buildings on Front Street knows that they had outlived their usefulness and that the Government had to rent space in buildings nearby in order to accommodate the various departments of the Government with offices. The necessity for the new Parliament Buildings was great.

In the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Legislature in 1880, there appeared the following paragraph:—

"It appears to me therefore to be worthy of your very serious consideration, whether the erection of an edifice commensurate with the need of the public service and creditable to the Province should be longer delayed."

This roused the ire of Mr. W. R. Meredith, then Leader of the Opposition, who said:—

"On the proposition to erect new Parliament Buildings he was not in accord with the Government. . . . In East Toronto, which was being contested by the Leader of the Government (Mr. Mowat), a placard was published declaring that it was the intention of the Mowat Administration to expend a large sum of money in the erection of Parliament Buildings. . . . He denied that there was any special necessity for the erection of the new buildings. Historic memories surrounded the present building as the scene of action of some of the greatest Canadian statesmen, and of the passage of some of the greatest measures and these memories should not be disregarded. It was also said this House was unhealthy—that there were all sorts of gasses in it. In spite of its unhealthiness, however, the Hon. gentlemen in the Government who had been there for eight years still looked hale and hearty, and there seem to be plenty of people throughout the