

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Is the work on these fortifications done by public tender, or by day labor?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We began by calling for public tenders and by giving the work to the lowest tenderers; but the work was delayed a good deal by strikes, and for a time we tried to keep up the work ourselves, but it cost us much more than if we gave it to a good contractor and paid him well for it. So we finally adopted the system of calling for tenders from ten or twelve of the best masons, and giving the work to the lowest tenderer. The next vote is for the Quebec Examining Warehouse.

Mr. CASEY. Does the vote for the Citadel include anything for armament?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. No; only the walls. We would require \$25,000 for that purpose; but we propose \$10,000 for next year.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Will that put them in thorough good order?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I think another \$10,000 will. As to the Quebec Examining Warehouse, we have no Government building. We have a number rented from the town, old and unsafe. We think it better to have a Government building on Government land, and I think we will require \$10,000 more. The next item as to secure the cliff under the Citadel, \$15,000.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I observe this is to complete the work; what has been its total cost?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. \$35,000. With regard to the item of small arms, \$2,300, we had a previous vote of \$2,000 for heating apparatus, for additional machinery, repairs in the central section, &c.

Mr. CASEY. Will that finish the building to be used as a cartridge factory?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. \$6,000 will be wanted. The vote for Three Rivers public offices is to repair and make the buildings complete.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Are these works done by tender?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Does the item of \$10,000 for the Sherbrooke Custom House complete that work?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I think it will complete the old building, including the fittings and furniture.

Mr. CASEY. The cost will be \$35,000.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It will be nearly \$40,000. We have a balance in hand of \$14,000, and there is required to complete \$24,000. We are asking \$20,000, leaving over \$5,000 to next year.

Mr. CASEY. Will the hon. gentleman give some explanation as to the population of Sherbrooke, and the collections at Sherbrooke.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The population is 7,227; Postal revenue, \$7,220; Customs \$46,678; Excise, \$49,600; Weights and Measures, over \$1,000; total exports, \$154,000; imports, \$779,000; entered for consumption, \$778,000. With regard to the Montreal Inland Revenue building, to complete additions and alterations, we had two votes, \$9,000 in 1881, and \$10,000 in 1882, and we need \$3,800; the total will be a little over \$24,000. With regard to the item St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, \$1,000 will go towards providing offices for the stores, and \$500 for tools for the carpenters, &c.; repairs to prison and buildings, \$600; cast-iron fence and gates, \$350; temporary wooden building for storehouse, \$600; salaries to clerks, keepers and trade instructors, \$3,000. With regard to the Hull

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

Post Office and Inland Revenue Office, \$9,000 will be wanted. A site has been donated. It will require a little more to complete the work, probably \$2,500.

Mr. ANGLIN. What is the population of Hull?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Not quite 7,000. The vote for St. Helen's Island is for repairing the military buildings—this completes the work.

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Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I would have been glad if the hon. gentleman would have allowed that to stand till the member for West Durham was present, as he wanted to speak on it.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. He will have abundant opportunities.

Mr. BROWN. I am glad to see the Government are allowing \$20,000 for the Belleville Post Office and Custom House. I think the lot there is a suitable place, and there is a decided want felt for the construction of the building in which the Post Office, Customs, Inland Revenue and Weights and Measures may be all combined. I have no doubt the hon. Minister of Customs will see that the building is suitably put up and is worthy of the city which he hails from, a city which, I think, will compare favorably with any other in the Province.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The total cost will be \$48,000, of which \$5,500 will be for the land. I am now asking for \$20,000 of that sum, and next year we will have to ask for \$15,000 more. The land was purchased last year for \$37,000. The \$40,000 will be towards the erection of the building, which will cost, when finished, over \$200,000. That will include the Post Office, Custom House, Inland Revenue and Weights and Measures. The Stratford Custom House will require \$13,500, and we may have to ask for two or three thousand more next year. St. Thomas, \$20,000—this is for the Post Office and Custom House. The whole amount required will be \$40,500. The land alone cost \$7,000.

Mr. CASEY. I notice that this is exactly the sum which is put down to Cornwall and Brockville and a number of smaller places. Now, St. Thomas is a city of over 20,000 inhabitants, and is growing much faster than some of these smaller towns. Now, we must come to one of two conclusions, either Cornwall with its population of 4,300 is getting too much, or St. Thomas of twice the size is getting much too little. St. Thomas is a place more strictly comparable to Belleville and ought to have a sum corresponding to the allocation for Belleville. If \$40,000 is too much for Cornwall I think you ought to give \$90,000 to St. Thomas.

Mr. ARKELL. I give credit to the hon. member for West Elgin for being so solicitous for St. Thomas. I have been working this to-night pretty well, and I am quite willing to leave it in the hands of the Government.

Mr. CASEY. I suppose by working it up the hon. member must refer to those little transactions which took place last summer, although I do not for a moment suppose those reasons could have influenced the hon. Minister.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. As the hon. gentleman has seen fit to make another allusion to the matter which came before the Committee at a previous meeting in regard to my trip to Ontario last summer having been made at the expense of the country, I will now take the opportunity to reply to the insinuations then made. The hon. gentleman stated that I was travelling in a special car and was attended by a man with gold lace, and that I had a steamer at my disposal. I may say now that it was so late the other evening that I could not answer the hon. gentleman, and I did not desire to prolong the debate. But I am