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April 7th, 1887.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative
Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

The following letters and correspondence relating to the matters in dispute between the Government and Messrs. Darling & Carry, Architects, re the proposed new Parliament and Departmental Buildings have been sent to the Honorable the Attorney-General since 25th March last.

MAIL BUILDING, TORONTO,
30th March, 1887.

To the Honorable the

ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR ONTARIO.

SIR,—We beg to make the following proposition to the Government re the remuneration due to us for professional services rendered in preparing plans for the New Parliament Buildings :

That our work shall be submitted to a committee formed somewhat after the manner outlined in our letter to you of the 23rd inst., that the whole of our plans—working drawings, details, specifications, and all necessary and proper information concerning the matter—shall be supplied to that committee, and that they shall be asked to report thereon fully and exhaustively.

And we hereby agree that if that committee should decide that our plans are as defective and unsuitable as the Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works says they are, and so lacking in essential matters as to make them quite unworthy of adoption and erection, we shall be paid nothing whatever for our labor, time and expense, or for any work which we may have done in connection therewith in any way whatever.

If, however, that Committee reports favorably, and finds no faults, other than minor ones which could be remedied without materially altering the general scheme, and say that there exists no reason why the authors of the design should not be considered thoroughly capable of carrying out the work—judging purely from what evidence lies before them, then the Government shall on their part agree that we be paid our full account of fifteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$15,300), with interest at 6 per cent. reckoned from 1st March, 1882, to date of settlement.

No straightforward, honest man would ask for a fairer offer than this; it is perfectly reasonable and strictly business like; we are staking everything on what we consider to be the merits of our work and are asking no favors.

If it can be proved beyond a doubt that we have *not* earned the money we ask for, we do not want it at all; but, if on the other hand it be shewn that we *have* earned it, we want it all, and not a dollar less than we are justly entitled to.

We are not asking charity but *only* justice, and if the Government refuse to accede to the proposal we here make, it can only be because they know that the matter will not stand investigation, and that they are afraid to put it to the test.

The Government, like other men, are bound to pay their honest debts, but they have no right or authority to squander the public money, in giving gratuities to men for work which is improperly done and consequently valueless.

That in effect is what is said of ours, but we practically offer the Government four thousand dollars (\$4,000), if they can prove it, and we challenge them to undertake the task, and hope that if there remains in them a shred of decent, honest, manly fair play, or any desire to behave honorably in the matter, they will not shrink from accepting it.

We have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

DARLING & CURRY.

*Letter from Alan Musgrave Esq. E.M.I.C.E.
 Secretary, Ministry of the Interior, Ottawa.*

6th APRIL, 1887.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative
 Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

Written copies of the following letters have been sent to the Honourable
 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

CHAMBERS,
 TORONTO, }

MAIL BUILDING,
 15th March, 1887.

Messrs. DARLING & CURRY,
 Architects, Toronto:

DEAR SIRS,—Relative to the strictures which have been passed on your plans for the proposed Parliament Buildings in this city, I am obliged to you for the opportunity afforded me of examining the same. There are four points, I understand, on which exception has been taken: 1st. The Drainage; 2nd. The Plumbing; 3rd. The Heating; 4th. The Ventilation.

I.—THE DRAINAGE.

The arrangements here are most judicious; the sub-soil water has been provided for with forethought which is seldom met with in dealing with sub-soil drainage. Under your arrangement it is impossible for sewer air to enter the building. The rain water drains are designed to carry off roof-water only, with the exception that the basin wastes are connected therewith. These connections are not desirable, and can be altered at a very small cost, but it must be remembered that six years ago such connections were considered quite satisfactory.

The pipes for the sewage are distinct from both the above systems; and when they enter, or are within the buildings, they are of heavy iron pipe—a practice not by any means common at the date of the preparation of these plans.

II.—THE PLUMBING.

The arrangements of the various fixtures are much better than that frequently found in large public buildings, and is commendable for its simplicity of construction. No complex arrangements would be required about the soil pipe or fixtures; the whole of the materials specified are of first-class quality, and of the latest patterns at that time in use; and the specifications will compare favourably with those of almost any works being done at the present time.

III.—THE HEATING.

The arrangements of the heating apparatus will bear thorough examination; objection might be taken to the position of the boilers under the Legislative Chamber, but as every care has been taken in the placing of them, and in having the whole space occupied by them enclosed by brick walls and arching, not the slightest danger from any cause need be apprehended. The arrangement and size of pipes, valves, etc., are very satisfactory and ample. The amount of heating surface allowed is greater than is necessary in my opinion. Every care has been taken to make the heating apparatus perfect in all its parts even in the smallest detail.

I have no hesitation in stating and do not fear contradiction from any competent man, that the heating as shewn on the plans and specifications, would be perfectly satisfactory in all respects.

I do not wish to be misunderstood in the matter; I do not say that the work is the most elaborate or costly which could be adopted, but for the amount of money to be expended it was as nearly perfect as it is possible to have such work.

The Legislative Chamber, the only room in which a large number of people would at any time be brought together, was to be heated on the indirect principle, as were also the water-closets and lavatories.

IV.—THE VENTILATION.

The ventilation is arranged on the "natural" system, that is, of the balance of two columns of air, the vitiated air being warmer and lighter than the fresh incoming air, ascends and passes out of the aspirating flues into the atmosphere at a high level.

Advantage has been taken of the various towers, the space around the boiler flue, and the special ventilating shaft for the aspiration of foul air. These foul air ducts are arranged so as to discharge as directly as possible into the aspirating shafts, which are of sufficient area to carry off the vitiated air from the various chambers to which they are connected; those over the Legislative Chamber are divided and arranged to enter three separate shafts, a thoughtful provision seldom met with in this department of hygiene. To assist the draught, steam coils are placed at the top of all flues from the rooms, and at the foot of every aspirating shaft.

This is the utmost that can be done for creating draught under this system, and the plans and specifications have not failed in this detail for want of proper thought and consideration. Had there been money to expend on the more powerful mechanical appliances such as plenum and exhaust fans, and gas or steam engines, no impartial critic would fail to say that you could as easily make the same satisfactory arrangements for mechanical as you have done for natural ventilation.

When it is considered that this work was planned and specified nearly six years ago, when our knowledge of sanitary science was not so great as to-day, I am surprised that so little reasonable objection can now be taken.

The manner in which the work has been shown and specified, shows most decidedly that the designers could with more money at their disposal, and the benefit of six years' enlarged experience since then, carry out any system, no matter how elaborate or intricate which the wants of the present day might require.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

ALLAN MACDOUGALL.

TORONTO, 5th April, 1887.

MESSRS. DARLING & CURRY, Architects:

DEAR SIRS,—At your request I have made a thorough examination of your drawings (plans, elevations, sections and details) for the Parliamentary and Departmental Buildings submitted for tender in the autumn of 1882, and must certainly say that a more complete and perfect set of working drawings it has seldom been my privilege to see; in fact it is very unusual in this country to prepare anything more thorough than they are.

In the arrangement and planning, as well as constructive detail, I fully confirm, and would emphasize the remarks in my former note of date 15th May, 1886, bearing upon these points. The provisions for heating and ventilation are as perfect as the knowledge of these subjects had attained at the time the drawings were prepared, and only require changing in some very minor parts to bring them fully up to the present standard of efficiency. The lighting of rooms and corridors is excellent, and needs but some very small changes to make it perfect throughout.

I may here say, that having seen Mr. Macdougall's letter referring to the drainage, plumbing, heating and ventilation questions, I fully endorse all he has said in reference thereto.

I am, dear Sirs, yours very truly,

(Signed)

WILLIAM G. STORM.

The following petition which was prepared last May with the intention of presenting it to the Honorable the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Public Works, and which was not then presented because it was found impossible to arrange a joint interview between a committee of the undersigned Architects and the members of the Government, by Mr. Langley, has been lately forwarded, together with a letter, to the Hon. the Attorney General.

To the Honorable

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND PREMIER OF ONTARIO,

and

The Honorable

THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

We, the undersigned Architects, practising in Toronto, beg respectfully to call your attention to the following facts in relation to the competition of designs for the proposed new Legislative and Departmental Buildings.

In the spring of 1880 advertisements were issued inviting designs in competition for these buildings, the designs to be sent in on the 15th of October, 1880.

In response to the above advertisements some fifteen designs were sent in and were submitted to the examination of three experts, viz., Hon. Alexander McKenzie, W. G. Storm, Esq., R.C.A., and R. A. Waite, Esq.

The experts recommended the award of premiums to the three designs which could be executed nearest to the limit of the appropriation, and awarded the position of merit to two designs which did not receive premiums, because in their opinion they were too expensive, much exceeding the said appropriation.

Your Government finally decided to hold a second competition in which the authors of these two designs, and the authors of the first premiated design were invited to compete, which invitation was accepted by all three.

The result of this competition was, that the authors of the first premiated design and of the better of the other two designs, in the opinion of your experts, were asked to prepare working drawings upon which tenders could be received.

Tenders were received upon these working drawings and specifications, the lowest of which exceeded the appropriation, and it was decided not to proceed with the buildings at that time.

In the spring of 1885 the Legislature passed an appropriation of \$750,000, and the plans and specifications upon which tenders had been received were referred to Mr. R. A. Waite for his decision as an expert upon their respective merits.

No further intimation as to how matters were progressing was made public until a statement was made in the House at the close of the last session by the Commissioner of Public Works to the effect that your expert had reported against both plans submitted, because of defects in lighting, heating and ventilation, plumbing and drainage; and that the said expert had been appointed to himself prepare designs and carry out the work.

This statement was a surprise to us for many reasons, some of which are as follows:—

1st. It is against all precedent to appoint an expert to prepare designs for a building after competitive designs for the same have been submitted to his decision.

One reason why it is not considered advisable to appoint an expert who reports on a set of competitive designs, is that no temptation may be given him to report unfavorably against the designs so submitted, in the hope that the work may be eventually entrusted to himself.

2nd. The authors of the two designs under consideration having prepared no less than three sets of drawings it was presumed that the better design would have been accepted as soon as the point of relative superiority was decided.

3rd. It is always understood that the best design sent in in a competition will be accepted. Most certainly, we all fully believed that the author of the best design submitted would be appointed to carry out the work. And we firmly believe that if the competitors had for one instant thought that the action would be taken which has been taken in this matter they would have held aloof from all participation in the competition. We can also affirm that in this matter the competitors were not alone competing for a monetary reward, but for the prestige which would be theirs if they should gain the first place and be entrusted with the carrying out of the work.

4th. Because where there is reasonable doubt that the author of the best design is not able to carry out the work to a satisfactory conclusion on account of his lack of knowledge in some branches or want of experience, it is customary to associate with him or them, a man having the necessary qualifications.

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5th. Because we are confident from our knowledge of the abilities of the authors of the design which is generally conceded to be the better of the two that they are able to carry out the work in a satisfactory manner. They are possessed in the respective members of the firm of the requisite artistic and constructional skill and experience. Heating, ventilation, plumbing, drainage, and all other kindred subjects would receive every attention at their hands.

6th. Because the design submitted by them is universally conceded by competent judges in such matters to be most architectural, scholarly and beautiful in design, and exceedingly well planned throughout. And if they had been accorded the same opportunities as the expert of acquiring information as to the requirements of the various departments they would have been enabled to correct any minor defects of planning.

7th. Because in our opinion the authors of the better design honorably won the competition by submitting a design which would alike reflect credit on the Province and on themselves.

8th. Because we would consider it decidedly unfair to the competing firm to condemn their design even if such condemnation were just when the designs submitted by them were prepared under a limitation of \$500,000, and then to allow the expert to prepare a design to cost \$750,000.

Under the above circumstances we would most respectfully suggest that your Government should appoint experts of known ability and integrity to examine and report 1st, on the designs submitted; 2nd, on the report of your expert; and 3rd, on the professional practice in cases such as the one in question.

We feel constrained thus to address you, not out of any partiality to the authors of the better design, but in order that what we feel to be unintentionally a great injustice should be righted, that proper professional conduct should be insisted upon, and that Canadians should have an opportunity of fairly proving their fitness (as they have done in the past) for the execution of such an important and extensive work.

The appointment of a foreign Architect, together with the statement made to the Legislature, would tend to convey an impression that there are no Architects in this country capable of designing large public buildings, thus reflecting seriously on our profession in Canada.

That such is not correct will be admitted by those competent to judge, as it is conceded that the public buildings of Toronto compare most favourably with those of any other city on this continent of equal population and wealth.

We would also desire it to be distinctly understood that we are not actuated by any national feeling of jealousy in the matter.

If the expert had entered the competition and won it deservedly and honourably we would be the last to complain.

But what we do object to is that the competition having been honourably and deservedly won by Canadians they are not entrusted with the work, but instead thereof it is given to the expert who should have refused the appointment, as the acceptance of such by him under the circumstances reflects most gravely upon the impartiality of his report, and we feel that we would be recreant to ourselves did we not make the strongest protest in our power.

And your petitioners will ever as in duty bound most respectfully pray.

LANGLEY & BURKE,
M. SHEARD,
ARTHUR R. DENISON,
E. J. LENNOX,
WILLIAM G. STORM,
JOSEPH CONNOLLY,

SMITH & GEMMELL,
WALTER R. STRICKLAND,
S. H. TOWNSEND,
FRED C. LAW,
D. B. DICK,
MACDOUGALL & GRAY.

TORONTO, 7th April, 1884.

The above petition was the spontaneous action of the Architects who signed it, and was drawn up purely as a

protest against the treatment which had been dealt out to their profession in Canada, and was quite independent of anything which concerned Messrs. Darling & Curry personally.

(Signed),

HENRY F. LANGLEY.







