



1878.

VICTORIA.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

SECOND REPORT

OF

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

UPON THE

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 80.

[Extract from "Government Gazette" of 26th January 1877.]

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS COMMISSION.

The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen, viz. :—

- The Honorable JOSEPH JONES, M.P., Commissioner of Public Works, Chairman.
- The Honorable Sir W. H. F. MITCHELL, President of the Legislative Council.
- The Honorable Sir CHARLES MACMAHON, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Honorable Sir CHARLES SLADEN, LL.D., K.C.M.G., M.L.C.
- The Honorable Sir CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY, M.P.
- The Honorable T. T. A'BECKETT, M.L.C.
- The Honorable EDWARD LANGTON, M.P.
- The Honorable C. J. JENNER, M.L.C.
- The Honorable ALEXANDER FRASER, M.L.C.
- B. G. DAVIES, Esq., M.P.,
- P. HANNA, Esq., M.P.,
- J. L. PURVES, Esq., M.P.,

to be members of a Royal Commission to superintend the carrying out the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into the extent and character of the proper accommodation required in Parliament Buildings as embodied in their Report, dated 19th December 1876, and adopted by both Houses of Parliament; and also to consider new questions in connection with the work, such as internal arrangement and decoration, as they arise.

Melbourne, 25th January 1877.

(Signed)

JAMES McCULLOCH.

[Extract from "Government Gazette" of 4th June 1877.]

COMMISSION ON THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint—

- The Honorable JAMES BROWN PATTERSON, M.L.A.,
- The Honorable JOHN WOODS, M.L.A.,
- GEORGE DAVID LANGRIDGE, Esq. M.L.A.,

to be Members of the Royal Commission on the Parliament Buildings, in the room of the Honorable J. Jones, the Honorable E. Langton, and P. Hanna, Esq., whose resignations have been accepted.

The Honorable James Brown Patterson, M.L.A., to be the Chairman of the Commission.

Chief Secretary's office, Melbourne, 4th June 1877.

(Signed)

GRAHAM BERRY,

Chief Secretary.



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REPORT.

To His Excellency Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

GOVERNOR The Royal Commission appointed to superintend the carrying out the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee appointed to enquire into the extent and character of the proper accommodation required in the Parliament Buildings, as embodied in their report dated 19th December 1876, and sanctioned by both Houses of Parliament, and also to consider new questions in connection with the work as they arise, such as internal arrangement and decoration, have the honor to lay before Your Excellency the following Report :—

1. We have been informed by the Public Works Department that the under-mentioned progress has been made with the new buildings since the first report of the Commission in July 1877.

a. The central hall between the two chambers is far advanced, being roofed, the internal decorations in hand, and will be completed in June 1879, in time for the meeting of Parliament.

b. The walls of the vestibule, which are ultimately to support the dome, have been carried up as high as the cornice of the central hall, a temporary roof and ceiling constructed, and the interior of vestibule will be completed uniform with and at the same time as the central hall.

c. The portico stairs leading up from the street to the vestibule, and the foundations of the west front, are under contract and will also be completed next June.

d. The encaustic tile pavement has been ordered from the patentee in England.

e. A Board of thoroughly practical men has been appointed to examine and report upon the freestone quarries in different parts of the colony, with the view of adopting the most suitable stone for the erection of the superstructure. The proceedings of such Board to the present time indicate that a stone will be found within the colony superior to any that has yet been imported for building purposes.

2. In consequence of your Commissioners having in their first report requested the Public Works Department to proceed with the completion of the central hall and the foundations only of the vestibule, it became apparent that the advantages to be derived from the central hall would be greatly restricted by the inconvenient side entrances having to be used during the erection of the front portion of the building, while, by completing the vestibule and portico stairs at the same time as the central hall, viz., before the opening of the next session of Parliament, Members and the public will have direct and easy access to both chambers without inconvenience or interference during the erection of the superstructure. Advantage was taken by the Public Works Department of a favorable opportunity in the labor market for commencing the foundations of the west front, and they will be completed by the date the contract for the superstructure of the front and dome is entered into.

3. The accounts and estimates appended to this Report show that the cost of the central hall and vestibule will be £36,000, and the cost of the foundations of west front, including the portico steps, will be £29,000.

4. With reference to the cost of the new buildings, it may be pointed out that in the Commissioners' report of July 1877 the estimate for the whole building, as given by the late Inspector-General of Public Works, was stated as probably not to exceed £225,000, extending over three years. It is now reported by the Public Works Department that, in view of the recent cost of the works and the time taken to execute the same, the estimate for the superstructure of the west front and dome is £114,554, extending over four years, and when the north and south sides are gone on with, the estimate for the same is £145,520 additional, making, together with the £65,000 already expended or in progress for the central hall, vestibule, and foundations, a total of £325,074. The amount expended to the 30th June last was £21,388, and Parliament having since provided by loan an amount of £145,000 for continuing the work, only £14,000 will be further required from the general revenue to complete the west front, including dome.

5. A model of the Parliament Buildings, as proposed to be completed, has been executed by direction of the Commission, and has been placed for inspection in the vestibule.

Parliament House,
Melbourne, 19th November 1878.

J. B. PATTERSON, Chairman.
B. G. DAVIES.
G. D. LANGRIDGE.
JOHN WOODS.
J. L. PURVES.
W. H. F. MITCHELL.
CHARLES SLADEN.
C. J. JENNER.
ALEX. FRASER.

APPENDIX.

Department of Public Works,
Melbourne, 29th October 1878.

SIR,

I have the honor to attach a Report asked by the Royal Commission of the Houses of Parliament, fixing a date that honorable members can have free ingress and egress from Spring street to the vestibule, &c. ; also on the progress of the works, expenditure incurred on the same, and ultimate cost of the Spring street façade, &c.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

To the Honorable J. B. Patterson, M.L.A.,
Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Parliament Buildings.

P. KERR.
Architect.

Department of Public Works,
Melbourne, 29th October 1878.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to lay before the Commission the following report, which I trust will be found satisfactory :—

- 1st. Honorable Members and the public will have free access from Spring street to the vestibule in June 1879.
- 2nd. I would most respectfully state that the progress made in the erection of the main hall, vestibule, and foundations, of Spring street façade is satisfactory, and all, I believe, that can reasonably be expected.
- 3rd. The expenditure incurred in building the main hall and vestibule, if viewed by any professional gentleman or practical mechanic, is not excessive, considering the extent of the works, risk, and disadvantages contended with in securing the side walls of the chambers, in consequence of the cross walls having been taken down, which acted as stays, and in accepting a contract previous to the main hall and vestibule being designed ; necessitating my unremitting attention since the inception of the work.

STATEMENT AND ESTIMATE of the Works that have been lately executed, or in progress ; also, total amount of Spring street Façade, including Dome, Vestibule, and Main Hall.

	£
Main Hall and Vestibule	£36,000
Foundations of Spring street Façade, including Portico Steps	29,000
Total of Works done or in progress	65,000
After completion of the present Contract for Foundations of Spring street Façade ; the estimated cost of the Superstructure of the same, including Dome ; to extend over a period of Four years	114,554
Total amount of Spring street Façade, &c.	£179,554

The Estimate for the North and South Flanks, returned to Library, would be £145,520.

The above Estimates are based on stone equal to the hardness of stone from the Grampians District.

P. KERR.
Architect.

To the Honorable Members of the
Royal Commission on the Parliament Buildings.