

Q. Then I have the right to go over that and to make certain grammatical changes?—A. You are most welcome. All members are welcome to come to us and help us out in our difficulties.

Q. When the unrevised edition comes back, a member has the right to go over it to correct any grammatical error or change the syntax construction?—A. Yes. We just follow the English copy that is sent to us from the central office, from the office of the Editor of Debates.

Q. Suppose after I received my unrevised edition, I change the sentence around without disturbing the sense—I understand according to the rules I cannot change the sense of it—in order to give it a better grammatical construction. Suppose, instead of using one word I use two or three words?—A. Yes.

Q. Then, I may disturb the whole paragraph, and by disturbing the whole paragraph, in typesetting, I may disturb the whole column?—A. Yes.

Q. It then goes to the Printing Bureau, but what happens because of that?—A. Of course, we do not see to that at all; we do not see to that.

Q. It may very well happen?—A. We fix the copy for the printer. We never go to the Printing Bureau or interfere with their work in any way.

*By Mr. Pouliot:*

Q. You do not correct the proofs?—A. No, we do not correct the proofs.

Q. That is corrected at the Printing Bureau?—A. The unrevised is read over. We have a man who reads the unrevised and makes the necessary alterations.

Q. When your copy goes to the Printing Bureau, you do not look for the corrections at the Printing Bureau?—A. No, as long as they follow the copy. They have a corrector there for typographical errors. They have no right to change the matter.

*By Mr. Chevrier:*

Q. You have been here a number of years?—A. Yes.

Q. How many years?—A. Since 1904, I think.

Q. In the translation branch?—A. Hansard, yes. Before that I was in the Department of Agriculture.

Q. How long have you been in the position you now occupy as chief?—A. Since 1916.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Chairman, my difficulty is this, and I may just as well say it now: that I do not know what this bill asks. I am trying to find out if there is any way of improving the present system and if it can be improved, in what way. I should like to follow out that question.

The CHAIRMAN: Nobody is interfering with you.

*By Mr. Chevrier:*

Q. I understand, owing to your position, you cannot be critical of any measure which the government brings down. It is not your function to criticize any matter of this kind that any government may bring down. Mr. Gerin, as an employee of the Crown, you must do your work according to the directions that are given to you, but at the same time—

The CHAIRMAN: I think it only fair to say to you, Mr. Gerin, so far as this committee is concerned, we shall be very glad to have your views and opinions as to whether or not you think the establishment of a bureau of translation is beneficial to your service or detrimental to your service, or anything of that kind. Do not hesitate to give us your opinion.

Mr. MACINNIS: He is in the position of a protected witness.

The CHAIRMAN: We will give him every protection.