

## A.

REPORT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED  
TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CASE OF MR. TAYLOR, AS SET FORTH  
IN THE FURTHER, OR SECOND REPORT, OF THE CLERK.

In reference to the second report from Mr. Hartney on the present state of the Printing Services of Parliament, the sub-committee have approached the subject with a full sense of the grave responsibility attaching to them for any action they might recommend. They are aware that there has been a general rise in the price of labor, not less in the operations of printing than in other mechanical arts; but, unfortunately, the difficulties of dealing with the case before them are increased by special circumstances which must of necessity be taken into consideration. In the first place, the whole printing for the public service is now for the first time all done by contract, and, as might have been expected, there was a very keen competition for the work, leading to prices being offered which were never heard of before, and which many feared were too low to afford the prospect of any remunerative return being possible. The circumstances attending the letting of these contracts were just as exceptional as were the prices for which the work was offered to be done. As the Committee are aware, the printing of Parliament has heretofore been contracted for, and had been done at a very low rate. There were certain advantages accompanying it which were necessarily taken into account by those tendering. These chiefly were that the Reports of the Heads of Departments which are annually presented to Parliament were printed and paid for under the Parliamentary contract for so many copies as were required for the use of the Members of the two Houses. In most, if not all cases, larger or smaller editions, as might be required, were printed also for the use of the Departments, and paid for separately by the Departments. It is a fact, the Sub-Committee believes, that no uniform or fixed rate was paid by them, but that payment was made separately for copies ordered by the Departments there is no doubt whatever—some paying on one principle and some on another—some paying according to a pre-arrangement, and others just as the Printer chose to charge—but all paying nevertheless, and that altogether irrespective of the contract with Parliament. The result was that the low prices obtained under the Parliamentary contract were more than made up by the second price secured from the Departments. This, there is no doubt, was the case in relation to the old Parliamentary Printers, and the knowledge of the fact led to their being underbid by the present one; for no practical man supposes that the late contractors could expect a profitable return at even twenty eight cents per thousand ems—the old prices—even at the then low rate of wages, much less at nineteen cents, which was the figure for composition under their last tender. Taking into account these facts, it seems to us that the calculation of the present contractor for a fair return on his investment, responsibility and labor was a reasonable one. But after the present contract with Parliament was entered into, new circumstances arose, which have led to a complication of a very serious nature. An Act was passed which provided that all the public printing—that is, the Departmental Printing and the printing of the *Canada Gazette* and the Laws—should be put up for public competition. Tenders were called for by advertisement in all the leading papers in the country, and that of Mr. Taylor, being the lowest, was accepted. Thus the new Parliamentary Printer became also the Departmental Printer. Mr. Taylor at once entered on the work, and it is only simple justice to him to say that, from our personal knowledge, and from