

alterations in the form of printing indexes, distributed here to-day, by which means we will be able to find all the necessary papers that are printed. You will get these a very few days after the session, and instead of being, as heretofore, in the sessional papers in a less convenient form they will be in a list by themselves, so that you will be able to tell just where to find the different subjects; and there is to be a full description of subjects. I may say that the House of Commons have adopted this 10th report.

HON. MR. POIRIER—Before this motion is carried, I should like to say a few words with reference to the efficiency of one of the employees connected with this report—I mean Mr. Romaine of the House of Commons the manager of the printing of both Houses. This gentleman has performed a very valuable work by arranging in alphabetical order our indexes and for this and other deserts he has been paid in the other House a well merited tribute. As he is a good old friend of mine, and as I know his efficiency well, I desire to call the attention of the House to his services. With your permission I will read this short extract from the *Montreal Gazette* :—

This afternoon the report of the Printing Committee was adopted on the motion of Mr. Thomas White, chairman. Mr. Trow said: "They, on the part of the committee, desired to acknowledge the services of Mr. Romaine, who has prepared the alphabetical index of the sessional papers. Members will find the index a great convenience in arranging their papers in order. In any business we have had with Mr. Romaine, I have always found him to be one of the most practical men in the service of the Government. He has, by his energy and ability, been the means of saving thousands of dollars to the country through the standards and various contrivances for saving time and labor, which he has introduced into his department." The chairman of the committee endorsed the remarks of Mr. Trow. He said: "I am sure every honorable member of this House will admit that if there is one officer in the public service who has saved three or four or half a dozen times his salary, that gentleman is the head of the stationery department in this House."

The motion was agreed to.

THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED

HON. MR. PLUMB moved the adop-

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tion of the first report of the Joint Committee of both Houses on the Library of Parliament. He said: The subject of this report is a recommendation to Parliament to place upon the estimates again \$2,000 for the publication of the work of the late Librarian, Mr. Todd. I have delayed moving the adoption of the report awaiting the action of the House of Commons. I observe now that the House of Commons have put in the estimates the sum of \$2,000, which is recommended by the Committee, and I would therefore ask that the report be now concurred in.

The motion was agreed to.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (158), "An Act to authorize the grant of certain subsidies in land for the construction of railways therein mentioned." He said: This is a Bill for the purpose of granting aid to certain railways for that purpose, in the first place, of extending the Canadian Pacific Railway to Quebec and, in the next place, for making a short line between Montreal and the Ports of Halifax and St. John New Brunswick. The grants that it is proposed to give are mentioned in the Bill, and as it is the exclusive right of the House of Commons to grant them, I suppose no hon. gentleman will desire to take the responsibility of resisting the Bill as a whole, and therefore I need not enlarge on the advantages of each particular grant. I am quite ready to discuss the merits of each particular grant if hon. gentlemen desire to enter upon the subject: but in the meantime I content myself with moving the second reading of the Bill.

HON. MR. POWER—I have had occasion to speak more than once on this subject. It is one in which the people of Halifax particularly, and of the maritime provinces generally, are very much interested. I do not propose to say at the present time anything about the merits of the line which I had the honor to advocate on a former oc-