

3. The comparatively liberal prices (at the time) for such minor operations as folding and stitching; but, even for those, his prices are considerably below the Toronto Government contract, and, in most cases, below the Quebec Government contract, as well; and it so happens, unfortunately for him, that the rise in the wages of women and boys (by whom this work is, for the most part, done), has been greater than in those of men.

The result has been in this, as in most other cases of contracts at unremunerative or very low rates, that there have been constant difficulties in the audit for a long period, claims for disputed extras having been almost constantly made. Nor is this all; several master printers have called attention in their replies to the fact that the recent combinations among workmen have compelled the employment of inferior hands at full rates, leading always to an increase in the cost of production, and generally to inferior work, even at such enhanced price. This latter result has been seen in the execution of Mr. Taylor's contract as well as elsewhere, and work decidedly inferior to the specifications of that contract have of late been frequently sent in, which the officer in charge is ever tempted to accept because it is as good as the prices paid for it.

I think, Sir, that I have thus fairly placed you in possession of all the information respecting the working of Mr. Taylor's contract, and the justice of his claim to increased prices which I can afford you. And

I have the honor to remain

Your very obedient Servant,

B. CHAMBERLIN,

Queen's Printer.

The Honorable J. C. AIKINS,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

MEMO.

E.

The Contractor claims that he has suffered serious losses through the composition on the Departmental Reports not being paid for, as he had a right to expect they would, and the sudden and unprecedented advance in the rate of wages. The loss through the former cause, up to the present time, is close upon \$20,000; and for the latter, for the three years ending December, 1872, a fraction over 21 per cent. upon the whole work executed during that period; and at the rates, as established in January of the present year, as compared with those of 1869, he is a clear loser of 58 per cent. upon the cost of production, or on wages alone.

In proof of these statements, herewith is submitted a comparative statement of the cost of production and the amount paid by Mr. Hartney for the Postmaster General's Report in the year 1872. By this statement it will be seen that even had the rates of wages remained as they were in 1869, there would still have been a direct loss of 20 per cent. in wages alone, on all work executed; then, add to this the increase in wages in January, 1870, of 21 per cent., and then again the further increase in 1873 of 17 per cent., and it shows that the work to-day is being executed at an increased cost in wages, as compared with the prices of 1869, of 53 per cent. It must also be remembered that the prices quoted in the statement attached are those actually paid to workingmen, and consequently can hardly be taken as the actual loss sustained by the contractor. With regard to the rates for presswork, it is necessary to explain that they are the very lowest prices paid per token in any city in Canada, under trade regulations, and are supposed to cover rent, steam, fuel, water, oil, light, paper wetting, and wear and tear of machinery, as well as interest on capital.

Having been asked for an opinion on the matter in dispute, the Contractor would suggest that he be paid for all actual losses up to the present time on the Departmental Reports, as well as the direct loss sustained by the increase of wages, and that the prices be readjusted at say 40 cts. for composition, 35 cts. for presswork, 30 cts. per hour for corrections, and an increase of 25 per cent. on all other operations, and he feels that in asking for this, he is only claiming bare compensation for the work as executed under the existing state of trade and the exceptionally high rate of the cost of production.

All which is respectfully submitted.