

Public Printing and Stationery Act

I should like to point out that this amount of \$2 million was authorized in 1946 to be used by the king's printer as a revolving fund. It is to enable him to purchase stationery and printing material, and to operate an establishment for the processing of printing and stationery when requisitioned to do so by parliament and various departments. The department must encumber in advance in favour of the king's printer sufficient funds to cover each purchase requested. The department of public printing and stationery operates practically at cost, and the cost of the printing and stationery requirements which the king's printer is authorized to deliver each year to parliament and the departments must not exceed the total amount of money voted each year by parliament for its own services and for all the departments, not including the advance account of \$2 million authorized for use by the king's printer as a revolving fund only. As I say, that is capital, and after all it only amounts to 25 per cent of the annual turnover.

Moneys paid to him by parliament and the departments for stationery and printing which he delivers to them are used by the king's printer to pay for stationery and printing he purchases from outside firms—because he does not do all the printing himself—or which he processes in the printing establishment of the department, and to replenish that portion of his revolving fund which he uses from day to day for his purchases or the processing of stationery and printing so that at the end of the fiscal year the revolving fund is still intact, whether it is in the hands of the king's printer or in the inventories of the department.

The amount of \$2 million authorized by the amendment to the act in 1946 has proved to be insufficient, and these are the detailed reasons:

1. The increase in cost of stationery articles.
2. The necessity of increasing stocks of stationery articles due to delayed deliveries.
3. The increase in the volume of stationery required by departments.
4. The necessity of keeping larger stocks of paper due to the difficulty of getting ready deliveries from the mills.
5. The increase in wage rates for printers and administrative officers in the department.
6. The increase in the volume and the cost of printing.

I have already given the percentage increases of the various items. In short, the inventories of the department amounted to \$1,041,631 in 1946. The same item in 1951 has advanced to \$2,219,021, an increase of over 100 per cent. On account of these radical

increases the amount of \$2 million in the advance account of the king's printer has proved to be totally inadequate.

The \$2 million advance account is used, as already indicated, for the processing of printing, the purchase of printing and stationery material and the maintenance of printing and stationery stocks. The actual amounts invested at this date under these three items are as follows. Work in process—that is, work actually being done and in various stages of completion—amounts to \$2,394,000; stationery stocks amount to \$900,000; and printing material in stock amounts to \$600,000. That makes a total of \$3,894,000.

As the king's printer has only \$2 million at his disposal to cover this liability of \$3,894,000, he is at this date short \$1,894,000—this report was made out a month or so ago—which he now owes to his suppliers of printing and stationery across the country.

The statement generally reflects the position in which the king's printer has found himself in the last fiscal year. The king's printer operates at cost, and his only source of revenue is the eventual repayment by parliament and departments of the amount of \$2,394,000 he has spent to this date on work in process for them. This amount will be paid to him only when this work in process is completed and delivered. In the meantime, as his working capital is insufficient, the only recourse, in order to carry on and supply parliament and the departments is, as I have said before, to withhold payment for these supplies.

I have here a list as at various dates in October showing amounts which he owed to firms across the country. Those amounts vary between October 17 and October 29 from \$2,218,301 down to \$1,840,934. That amount is continuously outstanding and owing by us to firms across the country.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): It has taken a long time to get this interesting document, and even now it does not answer the chief question that I am still interested in. The minister now says—and I think these were his words—that probably or perhaps the various departments pay their bills monthly. I should like to ask him this question. How much work does he do each month for government departments? Is it \$1 million, \$5 million, \$3,700,000, or what is it?

Mr. Bradley: It would run from \$1 million to \$1,250,000.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Then we have about three months' accounts outstanding and unpaid. Obviously payment is not being paid on a monthly basis or anything