

for they were deserving of the promotion, but on account of the other members of the staff of the Bureau who are encouraged by seeing the advancement of some of their own confrères.

Pressure of Work.—The exceptional length of the last session of Parliament necessarily entailed an exceptionally large amount of printing. The voluminous reports of committees to be printed in two languages and the extended length of the Hansard caused a congestion of work in the Bureau. Usually, the excess of work ordered during the session has been overtaken during the recess, but this year the recess was far too short for that purpose and six months' work had to be done in three. A reference to the report of the Superintendent of Printing, page 22, will show that the sessional printing amounted to a little more than double the number of pages of the preceding year. At page 29 the great increase of the Hansard reports is shown, and the table on page 22, giving the dates of the receipt of manuscript copy for the departmental reports, shows that copy was unusually late in coming in. The whole of the night staff of last session was carried over and put upon day work; so that the dismissals customary in former years did not take place. The revision of the voters' lists came on in November and the large number of by-elections added to the embarrassment; because the lists had to be hurried on for every district before the courts. The time of the decisions and their results could not be foreseen, and it was with much difficulty the lists which came in late could be got out in time for the elections. It became necessary last December to work extra hours for a fortnight, a method which should be adopted only as a last resource; but there was no other way of meeting that pressing emergency. Operatives cannot work with economy more than the regular number of hours a day; and extra night work is extravagant. It costs one-fourth more per hour and the men are tired for their next day's labour.

Cost of Work.—I have been pressed with many questions upon this point and it was naturally one of the first which I inquired into. It does not appear from the reports made prior to the establishment of the Bureau that the consideration of cost was the only one, or even the chief one, which led to its establishment. It was rather to raise the standard of the work to the level of the public printing in other countries and to do away with the manifold inconveniences of the contract system. A comparison must be made over all the extent of the work; and, if that be done, it will appear that to-day the work costs at least no more while it is plainly evident that it is very much better done. If single items are taken, the work in some instances seems to cost more. For instance, in plain solid setting of type, the contract price for parliamentary printing was 25 cents per thousand ems and for departmental work ten cents; while the evidence of the labour commission shows that the contractors were paying their men at the rate of 35 cents in wages. In this item then the cost in the Bureau is higher. But on the other hand there is a very large saving in all tabular matter, and a large saving in all blank form work with rules and figures, in all matter used more than once, in all standing matter. If the Bureau were allowed to charge the contract rate of five cents per thousand a month for the immense mass of standing matter which it is carrying it could well afford, as the contractors did, to take plain setting at less than cost. Five cents per thousand per