

copper engraving, map making is done outside the Bureau from the fact that we have no plant to do work of that description; we have no engraving or lithographic plant.

Q. We will not pursue that any further then. But what about the printing branch?—A. There is nothing given out if we are in the position to do it ourselves. It is simply a matter of giving out what little overflow there is, but that is very small in amount; the actual printing I give out.

Q. And when you do give it out what is the procedure; do you call for tenders, or what?—A. Well, the procedure now is practically to get a price, not, perhaps, a form of tender, but there are a dozen large firms that are able to do this printing, and they are asked to give a price and the lowest tenderer gets it.

Q. That is if a department sent in a requisition for certain printing and you cannot do it yourself you send out notices to the firms you think are competent to do the work asking for prices and you give it to the lowest?—A. We give it to the lowest.

Q. How is it decided what firms are to be invited to give prices? Is there a list?—A. I have no list; I send out notices to those who have been in the habit of doing the work, and sometimes people apply to me and tell me they have the proper facilities to do the work and asking me to give them a chance; we give them a chance to put in a price because the object is to get the work done at the best figure we can.

Q. That is the practice now; how long has it been the practice?—A. Well, it has been the practice since I have been there.

Q. Then when a requisition comes in for printing that you cannot do, I understand you apply to the various firms you think are competent to do the work, you get their prices, and you give it to the lowest tenderer?—A. Yes, there is this exception, that there are some reports, that is parliamentary reports, small reports, that we occasionally give out at what we call 'Bureau rates,' that is, so much for composition, so much for press work, so much for stitching and the various processes, and those rates, I may say, are lower than the ordinary commercial rates that prevail—that is where the printing is of a nature that it can be estimated in that way without any confusion; of course many of these other jobs it would be very difficult to measure up by that standard, and in that case we ask for a lump tender.

Q. Do I understand that there are certain kinds of printing which you do in your department and which are charged up to the other departments at what you thing is a fair price and you occasionally send work out to other offices outside allowing them the same rates that you would charge for similar work done in the Bureau?—A. No, that is not quite it. It has no reference to the cost of what we actually do in the Bureau; it has reference to the cost of similar work outside, and these rates are based on those prices so as to make them as low, if not lower, than the ordinary commercial rates other people pay for that sort of work.

Q. But the question is how do you strike that base; who is the person who strikes it and how is it struck?—A. These rates were fixed by my predecessor, Dr. Dawson, some years ago when, as a matter of fact, the cost of printing was lower than it is to-day.

Q. And they have continued up to this day?—A. Up to this day, with one exception, that after I came into office I was convinced the price of composition, 50 cents per thousand ems, was too low; in fact, we had great difficulty in getting people to accept it, and I increased that rate to 60 cents.

Q. And it was 50 per cent before?—A. No, not 50 per cent; 50 cents per thousand ems.

Q. And you increased it from what?—A. From 50 cents to 60 cents per thousand ems.

Q. How many firms are there on this list to whom you apply?—A. I have no list.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY.—The witness did not say he had a list.