

tion of all speeches, with special emphasis laid on those for which a separate issue has been ordered for widespread distribution. Fifth, the preparation of a detailed index, a table of contents, to be inserted in a separate volume.

Most of this work, practically the whole of it, must be done at a high rate of speed, and under pressure. We translators of the House of Commons, and more particularly those of Hansard, have been represented by some as men enjoying exceptional advantages in the way of salary and leisure. I may be allowed to point out a few facts to dispel such an erroneous impression.

Our remuneration is on the same basis, as, on a par with, if not somewhat on a general lower plane, than that of the official reporters of debates, who, I aver, do most excellent work, but may I submit not any greater in volume nor higher in quality than our own.

And should we enquire outside the service of the House of Commons, we would find, for instance, that the St. Lawrence pilots stationed in Montreal, in many cases draw larger pay and enjoy more leisure than we do ourselves. Unless it is assumed that literary work is to be rated lower than purely practical attainments, I fail to see any ground on which to justify any such discrimination in the treatment dealt out.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You realize that there is nothing in this bill that proposes to reduce the translators' salaries or interfere with the translators' salaries?

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Gerin was just having a little bit of humour on the side.

The WITNESS: I am not discussing the bill just now.

The CHAIRMAN: What I am interested in is your point of view as chief translator. Go on with your statement, and I shall ask you some questions later.

The WITNESS: I am just saying that our salaries are not abnormal, that we are just earning what a pilot earns, and I suppose their attainments should not be higher than ours.

The CHAIRMAN: I might say just for your general information, every member of this committee with the exception of one, spent some months some time ago dealing with civil service matters, and none of us have the opinion that the civil servants are too highly paid.

Mr. POULIOT: I was not a member of the committee at that time, but I share the view of the Chairman and all the members of the committee in that respect.

The WITNESS: On the whole, it seems desirable, that present conditions be maintained, if at all possible, in order to ensure a continuous recruiting of men capable of doing justice to our representative men as evidenced by their utterances and pronouncements in the House of Commons. Otherwise, the efficiency of this important public service will be made to suffer.

Mr. LAURIN: It is my intention to move the following resolution: That in the event of translators being transferred from their present positions to a central bureau, their salaries shall remain at the same scale as heretofore.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you mind if we treat that as a notice of motion, and you can move the formal motion later on?

Mr. LAURIN: Yes.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am very much interested in what Mr. Gerin has said. With the leave of the committee I should like to get some information as to the working of the machinery by which this translation is done. If I have that permission, I should like to proceed somewhat in this manner.