

JOHAN CHAS. BOYCE, assistant to the chief, was born in London, in 1844. First went to the printing profession in 1858. He came to Canada in 1866, being engaged for some time on the *Montreal Witness*, but returned to England the fall of the same year, and after acquiring considerable experience in various newspaper offices in London, he determined once more to cross the Atlantic, having accepted an engagement with Mr. I. B. Taylor, in 1870, then Parliamentary and Departmental printer. A short time after his arrival in Ottawa he was elevated to the position of manager of the English Parliamentary branch of Mr. Taylor's establishment, which position he creditably held for nearly two years, relinquishing it to again return to England. Being of a restless disposition he decided to visit New York in 1873, from which place he was invited by the Holland Bros., of Ottawa, to a position on the *Citizen*, with whom he stopped until the fall of 1875, at which time he purchased a half share in a paper in Northern Michigan. This speculation turning out a financial failure, he returned his steps once more to Canada, and accepted a position on the *Ottawa Times*, remaining on the paper until the demise in 1877. During the last three years he has held a position on the editorial staff of the *Hansard*, under the directorship of Mr. Richardson. He was appointed to a similar position last session on the official staff.

STEPHEN A. ABBOTT was born in Stanstead County, Province of Quebec, in 1844. Has been three years a reporter for the *Montreal Witness*, and for three years subsequently one of the official stenographers in the Superior Court, Montreal. In 1875 Mr. Abbott did his first Parliamentary work in assisting Mr. Isaac Watson in reporting the Senate. During the sessions of 1879 and 1880, was English and French reporter on Mr. Richardson's House of Commons *Hansard* staff. Mr. Abbott uses Benn Pitman's system, which he adapted to the French language four years ago. He is the only phonographer in Canada, exclusive of half a dozen French Canadians, who takes notes in the French language and transcribes them in the same. He is well known as a reporter who possesses ability combined with indomitable industry.

GEORGE EYVEL was born near Elgin, Scotland, in 1850; was educated in the Canadian public schools, and at the London High School. In 1873-4 he was assistant editor of the *St. Thomas Journal*, and in October of the latter year joined the Parliamentary staff of the *Toronto Globe*, taking his first "term" in the gallery, during that year's session of the Ontario Legislature. In 1875 he was appointed to the position of chief Parliamentary reporter to the *Toronto Liberal*. Upon the demise of that journal he resumed his old place on the *Globe* staff, where he remained

until December 1878, in which year, in company with Mr. Harry Gorman of the London *Advertiser*, he purchased the *Sarnia Observer*. He is at present one of the editors and proprietors of that old, well known and prosperous weekly. Last session he accepted an offer of a sessional engagement upon the *Globe* Parliamentary staff, and while at Ottawa was appointed a member of the *Hansard* staff under the new system of reporting officially the debates of the House. Mr. Eyvel writes Benn Pitman's system. He requires a good deal of elbow room when note-taking, and his phonographic forms are very large, but the ease with which he reads his notes compensates for the rapid disappearance of graphite.

EJ. DUGGAN, Montreal, first worked on the *Hansard* in the session of 1878; continued on the staff the following session, has since been attached to the *Montreal Gazette*, and was appointed a member of the official *Hansard* staff as constituted last session.

HANSARD.

By James Crankshaw, Montreal.

(Concluded.)

One reason for abolishing the contract system was the delay which existed in getting out the printed speeches. The *Debates Committee* in one of their reports recommended that, to render the official reports of the debates of real utility, they should be printed and laid on the desks of members of the House in the afternoon after the delivery of the speeches. At the time when this recommendation was made by the Committee, the *Hansard*,—so far as the printed sheets were concerned,—was three or four weeks behind time. This was certainly not for want of copy; for the reporters had written out their notes into longhand right up to date. The blame was not unreasonably attributed to the contract system; and subsequently the Committee recommended and the House sanctioned the appointment of six official reporters,—five at a salary of \$1,000 each, and a chief at \$1,500,—with the view of *verbatim et literatim* reports of the debates.

Now it seems to me, that under these conditions, the work to be done by these six reporters will be too heavy, especially as the chief reporter, Mr. Bradley, cannot,—considering his important duties in editing and generally superintending the reports,—be expected to take his turn regularly with the other reporters. I have no doubt, however, that the new system will work well, and that when the Government see that a decided improvement has commenced they will not hesitate to add one or even two extra reporters to the staff.

The great trouble under the contract system has been that in order to make as much profit as possible, the contractor would naturally enough employ as few men as he could to hurry