

Printer. Already \$26,000 has been expended on the English edition, and, with the French edition and the other two volumes, the total cost will be \$40,000. That sum of money will uniform four battalions of infantry, or it will provide four aeroplanes fully equipped. It will build four drill-halls, or four public post offices. Such unnecessary expenditures are being made annually, and there seems to be no one who can turn off the tap.

There is another report here on the Wabana iron mine which is in Newfoundland. The Mines Department, which is a great sinner in respect to additional increase in the cost of printing, has spent something like \$5,000 publishing a big book with regard to a mine not in Canada, and with which Canada has nothing to do. There is also a great deal published in regard to other matters which it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to understand. Volumes are published on the hydrometric survey of rivers away up on the Hudson bay which no one is interested in. This book is not only published once, but annually. This question of the cost of printing has been referred to us by this House to see if we can make some suggestion in regard to it. We have suggested that the map-making of the country should be placed under one bureau, and that there should be standard maps. At present each department gets a fresh map, and there are hundreds and thousands of maps published which are of no use, whereas, if there were a standard map, reference could be made to it.

Then another matter for consideration is the material that is printed. We consider that the Government should take from the ranks of the Civil Service an editorial committee of, say, three men, to consider such questions and make suggestions. This editorial committee would meet and decide with regard to the publications in any department, and nothing but the personal order of the minister would override their decision. As near as I can ascertain, 80 per cent of the printing is done without reference to the ministers of the different departments. If there were an editorial board of that kind, the various departmental officers, if they wanted to publish anything in regard to the Wabana iron mine would make a report, which would come before the minister, giving an estimate of the cost, and the minister would consider whether it would be in the interest of the country to spend ten or fifteen thousand dollars in useless work. That com-

mittee would also prevent duplication. We have been endeavouring to prevent duplication in the various departments. Some of the most expensive documents issued by the Government are those dealing with trade, and we are endeavouring to arrange so that there will be only one publication dealing with trade, whereas at present there are two or three. The Census Branch issues a publication dealing with the trade question, and the Customs Department publishes two or three volumes dealing with other such matters, and the Department of Trade and Commerce issues other publications. This matter has been going on previous to this Government coming into power, nothing has been initiated by this Government to create additional cost. We think there should be something done to improve the system and that this proposed board should have the supervision of these matters, and refer to the chief of the department any publication in that department that they did not consider it advisable to print. The report is before the committee. There is no recommendation that requires an expenditure of money.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The effective suggestion which has been placed before the House by the committee is this:

The most effective way to bring about economies in Canadian Parliamentary and Departmental printing is, in the opinion of the committee, to create an editorial board of three members of the Civil Service, thoroughly conversant with public affairs, and with a knowledge of Departmental workings. This board should have plenary powers to order such excisions of "copy" of Departmental reports, leaflets, bulletins, memoirs, etc., or to refuse to sanction the printing of any report if, in their judgment, the public interest would not be seriously affected by such refusal.

It would be the duty of the Board to call upon the Deputy Head of any Department or Branch of the Public Service created by Parliament, whose requisition and "copy" for printing were under consideration, to show cause why any proposed reductions in "copy" should not be made or the printing thereof suspended entirely, and only upon direct written authority of the Minister of the Department interested should the decision of the Board of Editors be countermanded.

The Board should present a report of its operations annually to Parliament within three weeks after the opening of each session thereof, such report to give the dates when first and last "copy" of every departmental report is received, and specifying the reductions in text, and the reasons therefor. In cases where the decision of the Board has been overridden by the Minister of any department Parliament shall be advised.

The suggestions in the three paragraphs which I have just read are worthy of at-