

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said that of course there had been some delay on account of the very large edition that had to be got out. The more important Acts were published, immediately after the rising of Parliament, in the *Canada Gazette*. The Minister of Agriculture had also circulated the Quarantine Act in pamphlet form.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I never saw it.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—It had always been found difficult to circulate the statutes rapidly in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. In Ontario they were sent to the Clerks of the Peace and distributed by them to the Magistrates. In Quebec, however, they were sent to the Magistrate directly, and copies were constantly duplicated. In the Maritime Provinces they were sent to the Provincial Secretary. In this way much delay occurred.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST also complained that the French copies had only been received by him just before he came up to the House.

Hon. Mr. OLIVIER made a remark to the same effect.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said that so far as his department was concerned no delay had taken place, but the laws had been placed in the contractor's hands as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. MILLER said that the Government should look after the contractor.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS said that the printer had suffered from strikes and other difficulties which, of late, had met so many employers. The printing has been done in a very satisfactory manner.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON said he had had a good deal to do with the public printing during the last thirty years, and he was in a position to give some information on the subject. He was not by any means an apologist of the Government, but he did not see in what way the Government had any responsibility in the matter. The contract of printing was made with the Joint Committee on Printing, composed of members of both Houses, and he contended that the Government had no power to interfere. The contractor had a good many difficulties to contend with in his work, and it was probably to that the delay was owing. He (the Speaker) had opposed the awarding of the contract to Mr. Taylor originally, because he did not believe the man had the means and was not strong enough to fulfil it. He had assured the committee, however, that he would obtain proper facilities for the execution of his work, and had given securities for the due performance of it, for \$8,000, and as his tender

was lower than any of the others he had got the contract. So far as the work was concerned, he believed that up to a certain period it had been very well and satisfactorily done, but he found himself unable after a time to go on with the contract. He had relied upon getting double composition, or double pay for one composition, and the committee, he thought, most righteously refused to grant the double composition. The matter had been taken into the courts to test the legality of it, and the judges had decided that the contractor was not entitled to double composition. He then appealed to the clerk of the printing committee, Mr. Hartney, and Mr. Hartney had advised him to address the government. The government had afforded him a certain measure of pecuniary relief, and he thought they were justified in doing so. He had not been consulted in the matter, but he was aware that Mr. Taylor was seeking relief from the government, and he had advised them to grant a measure of relief. He knew as matter of fact that the contractor had been for a long time losing at the rate of thirty cents on every dollar's worth of work done for Parliament. His contract allowed him 17½ cents per thousand for composition, and was compelled to pay 30c to his printers for the same work. He found, of course, that he couldn't go on. He had taken the contract at a foolishly and ruinously low rate. Wages and material had increased in price, and a strike among the workmen had destroyed his operations. He had done the best he could; had gone to England and imported printers to go on with the work, but he (the speaker) knew that Mr. Taylor had actually had to sell a large portion of his private property to carry on the work. In this emergency, the contractor found himself unable to go on. He could not furnish means to pay his workmen. The men threatened a strike in the office, and the contractor had appealed to the government for the aid which had been given him. Under these circumstances, and as he said before, he did not speak as the apologist of the government. He thought they were perfectly justified in granting relief. The matter would likely come up before Parliament as he (Mr. Simpson) was aware that Mr. Taylor had given notice to the clerk that in a few days he would suspend operations altogether. It was quite clear that these circumstances and not the government were responsible for the delays that hon. gentlemen had complained about.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON said that the remarks of the hon. gentleman certainly