

While the Canadian system of parliamentary reporting compares favorably with the systems of other English-speaking countries, the published records of the proceedings of the Senate and House of Commons are of less value as works of reference than they would be if complete indices, in convenient form, were published concurrently. The daily record of the proceedings of Parliament is spread over five different publications, the Minutes and Hansard of the Senate and the Votes and Proceedings and revised and unrevised editions of the Hansard of the House of Commons. No indices to any of these publications are issued until after the close of the Session to which they relate, so that to trace the course of any piece of legislation through the records, or even to refer to a particular speech during the Session in which it is delivered, is a tedious and unsatisfactory undertaking.

The establishment of an efficient concurrent index which would co-ordinate all branches of the record, so that at a glance the course of a debate or of a piece of legislation could be traced, would undoubtedly facilitate the work of members and officials of Parliament and of solicitors, newspaper men and others who have occasion to refer to parliamentary records. Such an index would necessarily be kept on cards, in the same manner as library catalogues, etc., in order that each day's proceedings might be entered immediately on their publication.

As there is a sharp distinction between public and private legislation it would be desirable to have separate indices for the two classes of legislation. Thus, to make the