

inasmuch as it confines the publication of the reports entirely to the *Hansard* system in future. In that respect my impression is that it will be a great improvement on the present mode of publication. As hon. gentlemen well know, the publication in the *Citizen*, owing to circumstances over which the reporters have no control, has been delayed, and the reports are now some days in arrears. The consequence is that matters discussed in this House have lost their interest before they appear in print. Under the new system the speeches of hon. members will be published the day after they are delivered, and will be disseminated and read throughout the country more extensively than they are at present, inasmuch as there will be no delay in publication. Each Senator will have five copies of the first edition delivered to him the day after the speeches are uttered. They will then have an opportunity of revising their speeches in print, and making such verbal alterations as may be necessary for the permanent record of the country. For the purpose of giving, if possible, more prominence to the French speeches, we have thought it advisable to add \$500 to the amount of the contract in the hope that the services of a competent French reporter may be secured. The Committee, I may say, have taken a good deal of pains to get the best information they could, and to acquaint themselves with the best mode of giving publicity to the speeches delivered in this House, and have come to the conclusion that the proposed system is the best we can adopt.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE — I would not wish to be understood in any remarks which I may have to make upon this report as desiring to act with any discourtesy towards the Committee. I am well aware that in this House it is generally considered that the report of a Committee situated as the Debates Committee is, ought to be adopted without dissent, but, as my opinion is strongly in favor of the present system in preference to that which the House is recommended to adopt, I must protest against the change, and request the House to hesitate before it sanctions the new plan. Having been myself once a member of

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the Debates Committee, I feel that its members are deserving of great consideration for all the trouble they have taken, but I believe there is an instance on record where a Reporting Committee was asked to reconsider its report, and came back to this House recommending a different plan from that first adopted. That plan has been in operation for two or three years, and has given very general satisfaction. I remember the instructions to that Committee were very precise. They were instructed to procure the publication of the debates of this House in some newspaper in Ottawa, so that the reports should be circulated with the paper, and that instruction of the House has been carried into effect. A great change must have come over the opinions of hon. gentlemen on this subject. Three years ago they were strongly in favor of having the debates of this House published in some of the city newspapers, now they are perfectly indifferent on that point, since it appears that whatever advantages may have been obtained by the present plan we are to lose them entirely by the new scheme. I confess I myself attached a great deal of importance to that plan. It is said that greater prominence will be given to our reports by the proposed system than by the plan now in operation, but I very much doubt that. What do we find in this City of Ottawa? We find the *Citizen* published at an early hour in the morning, and gentlemen, sitting over their breakfast tables, have it before them with the Senate debates, if not of the previous night, at all events of a late date, to read at their leisure. I very much doubt whether the publication in *Hansard* form will have the same effect. *Hansard* is something that everybody does not care much about, and the reading of it may be deferred *sine die*, and probably the ultimate fate of it is, that it will not be read at all, and will be kept for the purpose of reference, which, indeed, is the true use of a *Hansard* — but what we want is to accustom the public to see the debates daily in some portion of the press, and it seems to me not a valid objection that the debates of this House get sometimes in arrears. I do not think there is any valid reason for blaming the reporters for that, because it would require a much larger