

Public Printing and Stationery Act

but the only thing that is fixed is the ceiling which prevents the wages from being any higher. I could go into that further, but I shall not at this time. I shall leave it for another occasion.

I knew if I kept going long enough the word would go out and the hon. member for Temiscouata would appear in his place. I am glad to see him. The third point the hon. member referred to the other night, and which bothered the members of the union a great deal, seemed to be put on a sort of personal basis and made it a bit difficult to answer. As he is aware from the letter the president and secretary of the union have written to him, they have cleared up that point. He suggested that a certain person who was formerly the president of the union, and who advocated the policies that I support on behalf of those men, principally the forty-hour week, had been beaten in his bid for re-election as president of the union, and that indicated the members of the union were not behind the policies which that particular candidate advanced. It so happens his successful opponent did not differ on the basic policies of the union. The question as to which of those gentlemen was elected is of no concern to the hon. member or to me. It is no concern of parliament. As to personal friendship, all the members of the I.T.U. are friends of mine; that goes without saying.

The suggestion made by the hon. member for Temiscouata to the effect that the members of the Ottawa typographical union did not support the forty-hour week, and the suggestion that the members of that union have gone back on that—

Mr. Pouliot: I never said a word about the forty-hour week. I challenge the hon. gentleman to quote anything about it, and moreover I shall ask him to proceed, although he will dislike it, as a lawyer would in submitting his case. In the first place, let him read what I said in the house. Let him read the letters and other papers that were sent to me by Mr. LeBlanc of the printers' union. Let him read a copy of my answer, and I shall send a copy of my answer to Mr. LeBlanc for the benefit of the hon. gentleman; let him read the whole story and then we shall argue it afterwards. I am in a position to argue with him, because I have union men in my county. I tell them very often that I have to fight the union to protect them. They come and say "Hurrah, boy, that is true".

Mr. Knowles: I predicted earlier that this discussion would be a lot more interesting if the hon. member were here—

[Mr. Knowles.]

Mr. Pouliot: I thought the hon. gentleman would be satisfied with my answer. I never thought he would waste the time of the house with that, but if he is willing to engage in a discussion with me I am ready to answer him point by point.

Mr. Rinfret: Perhaps I should interrupt at this point. All this discussion might be very interesting, but *Hansard* has been corrected as to certain points, and I submit this discussion is out of order. We are discussing in committee a resolution asking for an increase in the revolving fund of the printing bureau from \$2 million to \$4 million. I do not see what the wages paid at the printing bureau have to do with this matter.

Mr. Knowles: On that point of order, I might say there is a good deal of merit in what the Postmaster General says. The fact of the matter is that whether we were in order or out of order, we got into this discussion the other night. As I said earlier, the members of this union were anxious to have corrected the three points that were made in the member's speech in the house. I was setting out to do that. I have dealt with two of them, and in a moment I shall be finished with the third one. I shall go so far as to admit that perhaps the Postmaster General is correct, and if we had not got started on it the whole thing would be out of order. Since we have gone this far, and since what amounts to a point of privilege has come up, I feel it is only fair to these men, who feel that they were misrepresented by a speech in the house, that their answer should be made.

Mr. Rinfret: That is why I did not interrupt before.

Mr. Knowles: May I say to the hon. member for Temiscouata, as other members who were here at the time will bear me out, that I indicated to the committee that the union, in writing to the hon. member, included in their letter a paragraph to the effect that they were sending me a copy of the letter. He returned the courtesy by giving them a copy of his letter so they could give it to me. Both of us, therefore, have all the documents.

Mr. Pouliot: They would have sent it to the hon. gentleman just the same, because they must share his policy. It was to save them the trouble that I sent the additional copy.

Mr. Knowles: I was not at all surprised that the hon. gentleman did so because, although many of us quarrel with him, he is a man of great courtesy. The hon. member asked me to draw to his attention what it was he said