

printing paper, have signed their respective contracts, which I now submit for the inspection and approval of the Committee. Those contracts came into force on the 1st day of January, and so far, the duties have been satisfactorily performed. The late contractor, Mr. *I. B. Taylor*, is still engaged in finishing the work pertaining to his late contract.

With regard to the Binding, the tender of Messrs. *Grison, Fréchet & Co.* was accepted, but on notifying those parties that the contract was ready for signature, I received the following letter from Mr. *Fréchet*:

OTTAWA, Sept. 23, 1874.

"H. HARTNEY, Esq.,
Chief Clerk of Printing Committee.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that I have severed my connection with the firm of *Grison, Fréchet & Co.*, and further, that I withdraw my claim to the contract for the binding of Journals, &c., &c.

Yours respectfully,
A. FRÉCHET.

Under the circumstances, and as no binding would be required till after the present Session, I deemed it advisable to stay all further proceedings, and await the action of the Committee on its re-assembling.

On the 9th inst. I also received the following letter from Mr. *Grison*, in relation to the same subject:

OTTAWA, Feb. 9, 1875.

"HENRY HARTNEY, Esq.,

SIR,—I beg to inform you that Mr. *Fréchet* having withdrawn from our firm since I tendered for the binding, and made the deposit, and that *Daniel J. O'Donoghue* is substituted in my firm for him, and I wish the contract to be drawn in the name of myself and *D. J. O'Donoghue*. The deposit will be changed to the name of the new firm in the Bank.

Your obedient servant,
L. A. GRISON."

I wish also to draw the attention of the Committee to our Postage account.

Everything going out is carefully weighed, entered and charged before being sent, yet when the account is rendered it never agrees with our books, yet it must be paid, for which purpose money is drawn from the Treasury, and in due course repaid back again; if the law could be so amended as to permit all printed matter sent by Parliament to go free, this apparently unnecessary and fruitless labour would be avoided.

I beg to submit the Annual Balance Sheet showing the cost of the Printing Services for the fiscal year 1873-4, which, together with the books, and the accounts and vouchers for the verification of the same, are ready for the audit.

I transmitted to the Honorable the Minister of Finance an estimate of the sums that would probably be required for Printing Services during the ensuing year, amounting to \$50,000, subject to the approval of the Committee. This is a larger amount than usual, but as the prices to be paid under the new contracts are considerably in advance of those paid under the old, I deemed it prudent to do so.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY HARTNEY,
Clerk, Joint Committee on Printing.