

PREFACE

Though Professor Norman Ward is both the most recent and the most effective person to urge the compilation and publishing of a Hansard for 1867-1874, and I am happy to publicly acknowledge Parliament's indebtedness to him, I should also like to pay tribute to two of my predecessors who originally made the suggestion. In their report to Parliament for 1886, the Joint Librarians, Mr. A. D. DeCelles, General Librarian, and Mr. Martin J. Griffin, Parliamentary Librarian, urged the provision of "a good general Index to the reports of Parliamentary Proceedings in both Houses. . ." and "In order that such a work may be complete the Librarians venture to suggest the reprinting of the debates from 1867 to 1875, at which date the present series of Hansard Debates begin. The debates from 1867 to 1871 are contained in scrapbooks seldom available for the use of Members generally. The debates for 1870-71-72 are now out of print and not obtainable. There are no reports for 1873-74. If these debates were reprinted and revised under the charge of an impartial and capable man a very valuable work would be done in preserving a continuous record of the political history of the Dominion."

I believe that we were fortunate in engaging the services of "an impartial and capable man", and that the work he is producing will be "very valuable. . . in preserving a continuous record of the political history of the Dominion." We are all happy to have Professor Peter B. Waite of Dalhousie University, Halifax, in charge of this project. In this regard, I should like to thank Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, National Librarian and Dominion Archivist, Professor D. G. Creighton of the University of Toronto, and Mr. W. I. Smith, Assistant Dominion archivist, for their willingness to discuss this appointment and other matters at the beginning. It seemed to me that Professor Waite's interest in the period, his facility in both French and English, and his knowledge of available newspapers and their proprietors, as evidenced by his book *The Life and Times of Confederation* (University of Toronto Press), made him a logical choice as editor of these debates.

The interest of The Joint Chairmen of the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament has also been helpful, particularly as the work proceeded, as also has the increasing interest of the Committee members.

Professor Waite pays deserved tribute to the work done by the Associate Librarian, Mr. Guy Sylvestre, and the Assistant Librarian, Miss A. Pamela Hardisty on the project. Other members of the staff of the Library of Parliament also contributed in various ways to the compilation of these debates. And finally, I should like to thank the Queen's Printer, himself, Mr. Roger Duhamel, and the other normally unsung heroes of the production side who are ultimately responsible for the appearance of this project.

For myself it has been an honour to be associated with such a worthwhile and enduring monument to former politicians whose parliamentary efforts will now, I hope, reach a larger public, and, in so doing, increase Canadian knowledge of, and respect for, both the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada.

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