

that is not all; it often happens that the rushed work of the laggard who has been late in sending in his requisition, unfairly interferes with the execution of that ordered in reasonable time. Hence, very possibly dissatisfaction on the part of the heads of the unoffending, as well as the offending Department. Proofs have been kept for weeks, and sometimes months, in the Department, and that sometimes of work originally marked "immediate" or "rush." Only portions of copy, or imperfect copy is often furnished, and long weeks elapse with jobs in type, ere the finishing touches are given by the Department. With its present limited means, and limited storage the Stationery Office finds it impossible to keep a sufficient stock of papers, envelopes, &c., to meet many large, sudden demands; and this, also, is a fruitful cause of delays, for which the printers receive the blame. It is to be hoped, that in the much larger premises, now being prepared for that office, this cause of delay will be very much lessened, if not altogether obviated. It is to be hoped, at the same time, that a greater uniformity in the color of papers furnished by the contractors for blank books will be secured. I have repeatedly been compelled to keep the presses waiting after a job had been begun to procure a change of paper, more uniform with that already printed. A change also, is required from folded papers to flat, by using which more perfect registration in printing, and correct ruling and faint-lining could be obtained.

#### PARLIAMENTARY PRINTING.

Up to the present time the principal Parliamentary work executed has been the printing of Blue Books or Annual Reports of Departments, together with a few Bills. With respect to the former, I may here remark that the paper furnished seems to have been superior in quality and more satisfactory in every way than that employed in previous Sessions, and I am quite satisfied we have turned out better work.

During the printing of these Annual Reports for the present Session, I have had ample opportunity afforded me to observe the several operations through which they passed previous to their being sent to the Distribution Office, House of Commons. In the month of September I made applications for "printers' copy" of these reports, with the object of keeping the men employed, as it was customary to suspend a number of them during that month, and also to enable me to properly prepare for the work consequent upon the Session of Parliament, but I regret to say met with comparatively little success. As soon as the announcement appears in the *Canada Gazette* that Parliament is about to assemble for the *dispatch of business*, a general rush is usually made with just sufficient copy to place the sender in a position to say (if questions are asked) that the manuscript of the annual report is in the hands of the printer, and this is usually accompanied with the mild request that galley proofs of the same be sent without delay. Some of the departments prepare their copy carefully and return their proofs promptly, but as a rule corrections and reprints are numerous, with a tedious delay in the return of proofs.

Upon examination it will be found that the tabular statements of many of the reports and those contained in the report of the Auditor General are identical.

Taking into consideration the fact above referred to, the Department of Marine has set the example this year, by a considerable reduction in the size of their report; a course which will no doubt recommend itself to the favorable consideration of those in charge of the Annual Reports of the other departments for the ensuing year. This would lessen the work and secure greater economy.

It has been stated that the Parliamentary and Departmental work is, as a rule, not creditable, and the cause attributed to the inferior quality of the paper; to some extent this statement is true, but worn type and partially worn out presses have also not a little share in the kind of work turned out, and my experience is, that where good workmanship is looked for, time must be allowed wherein to execute it. From the present hurried manner in which the work is sent to, and demanded from, the printer, much greater perfection in this respect must not be expected.