

past, both before and since Confederation, and it is very questionable whether a joint office could do equal justice to the work performed for the Senate. On the contrary, inconveniences must be met with in the working of such a plan. The House of Commons would, in all probability, have precedence in many cases. Honorable Senators would thus be placed under the disadvantage of being deprived of the attendance and services of officers exclusively at their disposal and responsible to them alone.

3. It has been suggested that the yearly Departmental reports might, perhaps with advantage, be translated in those Departments in which they originate. As the bulk of such reports falls to the lot of the House of Commons, the Chief French Translator of that House is better able to offer an opinion on this particular point. I may, however, venture to say that by the carrying out of that suggestion, a greater despatch could be obtained in the translation of Departmental reports, which work seems properly to belong to the respective Departments. The translators entrusted with that duty would be better enabled to acquire an exact knowledge of the matters assigned to them and of the appropriate terms used in connection with technical subjects (such as canals and public works, especially), by the fact that their attention would be occupied from year to year by uniform studies on the same classes of subjects.

A. A. BOUCHER.

STATEMENT of T. G. Coursolles, Chief French Translator and Assistant Law Clerk of the House of Commons.

The staff of the French Translators' Department of the House of Commons is now composed of one Chief, who is also French Assistant Law Clerk, and five assistants. There is also a Proof Reader attached to the Department. Four, and sometimes five, extra translators are employed during the Session. (There are four this present Session.)

I was appointed Assistant French Translator in June, 1857, and French Assistant Law Clerk and Chief French Translator in July, 1872.

The duties of the permanent staff are :—

1st. To translate all the bills, public and private, introduced in the House of Commons, and all amendments made thereto by Committees or the House, and to supervise the printing of them.

To compare them with the English version when read a third time—this being done with the Law Clerk or the English Assistant Law Clerk—and to prepare the notes and index of the Statutes in French.

The above work is performed by me.

2nd. To translate and supervise the printing of all the Reports made and documents submitted by Ministers sitting in the House of Commons

3rd. To translate all Returns to Addresses and other documents submitted to the House and ordered to be printed.

4th. To revise the translation made by the extra translators during the Session.

5th. To read a first proof of all these documents, the Proof-Reader then reading one or two revises.

The documents thus translated and printed for the session of 1879 amounted to 10 volumes, comprising 7,581 pages, exclusive of what was done by the translators of the Senate; and the Bills of the same Session formed 612 pages, besides amendments and reprinting. For the present Session the documents will be increased by about 2,000 pages, and the number of Bills is already larger than it was last Session.

Having been asked whether I thought the amalgamation of the Translation Departments of both Houses would be advantageous and more economical, I stated that I did not think so, for the following reasons :—