

and professional training, realize net incomes of from \$1,700 to \$1,800. In Quebec the incomes of first class law stenographers range from \$1,200 to \$2,000.

Under the present system members of the staff are officers of the House, and they venture to submit that their salaries should bear some relation to the responsible and difficult positions they occupy. We are stating what is capable of abundant proof when we say that we are the worst paid officials of the House. The Auditor General's report shows this most clearly. A sessional doorkeeper receives \$800, messengers as high as \$900, while the salaries of translators, assistant-translators, Clerks of Committees, Journal Clerks and other officers of that class vary from \$1,200 to \$1,800. Upon this point we would respectfully suggest the examination by the Committee of the Clerk of the House, himself an experienced parliamentary reporter.

We trust that the facts and figures above presented will be deemed by the Committee as affording sufficient grounds for recommending the strengthening of the staff, and the more adequate remuneration of the members.

#### WORKING OF THE STAFF.

In order to secure the efficient and harmonious working of the staff, we venture to submit the following suggestions for the consideration of the Committee.

In case disputes should arise among members of the staff in regard to matters connected with the performance of their official duties, the decision of the chief reporter shall be binding, and in case of serious offence he shall have power to prevent any member who may refuse to abide by his decision, from taking his share of the work until the matter in dispute shall have been settled by the Chairman and the Committee.

Should any member of the staff desire to absent himself during working hours, he shall communicate with the chief reporter stating the reason for, and the length of such desired absence, and if a substitute acceptable to the chief reporter be provided, the latter may grant leave of absence for the period specified.

#### OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

We desire to call the special attention of the Committee to the wholly inadequate and unsuitable character of the office accommodation provided for the debates staff. The room presently occupied is altogether too small; it cannot be ventilated without creating dangerous draughts, while the fact that it is open to the reception of all the noises from the corridors and post office, seriously inconvenience the staff in the performance of their duties. We venture to suggest that a room at least as large as the present press room is absolutely necessary to enable the reporters to perform their duties with any degree of comfort.

In conclusion we take the liberty of saying that from the experience of the session thus far, we are convinced that if the modifications suggested in this report are adopted, the present

system of reporting and publishing the debates can be rendered as nearly perfect as possible, both for the purposes of a daily report to be placed in the hands of members, and of a permanent record of the debates of the House.

Your obedient servants,

G. B. BRADLEY,	GEORGE EYVEL,
E. J. DUGGAN,	ALBERT HORTON,
ISAAC WATSON,	J. W. MARCEAU,
S. A. ABBOTT,	J. C. BOYCE.

Debates Office, House of Commons,  
February 14th, 1881.

#### ALEXANDER HOPE CRAWFORD, CHIEF OF THE ONTARIO LAW REPORTERS.



ALEXANDER Hope Crawford was born in Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland. He served a seven years' apprenticeship to the printing business, in the offices of the *Alloa Advertiser* and the *Stirling Journal*. His first attempt at reporting was when he had just passed the age of sixteen, and was an effort to report a lecture on antiquities, by the Rev. Charles Rodgers, editor of the *Modern Scottish Minstrel*, in six volumes, in which Mr. Crawford's father's name appears as one of the song-writers of Scotland. Coming to Canada in the winter of 1863, Mr. Crawford was for some time on the *Globe*, and is a great admirer of the late Hon. Geo. Brown, whose kindness to him he holds in grateful remembrance. Afterwards he held the position of private secretary to Mr. P. S. Stevenson, the late General Freight Agent of the Grand Trunk Railway, and for several years was connected with the Grand Trunk, and the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railways. In the spring of 1876, the Hon. Mr. Mowat appointed Mr. Crawford as one of three reporters attached to the law courts of Ontario. From that time forward Mr. Crawford has worked hard to bring the system of reporting in our courts up to the high standard it has now attained. Now, with a staff of seven reporters in the common law courts and two reporters in the court of chancery, the time occupied in assize work is comparatively short. Mr. Crawford feels very proud of the staff of which the Hon. the Attorney-General has appointed him the chief, and more particularly does the chief take pride in the younger members of it, and in everything that will help or give them confidence. Mr. Crawford reported the case of *Fisher v. the Georgian Bay Transportation Company*, and the record of that trial, in two bound volumes, of over 500 pages each, attests to his skill as a manipulator of the type-writer. He uses the perfected type-writer of the Messrs. Remington & Sons, of New York, and has made as many as 12 complete and reliable copies with its aid at one time—using carbon paper, manufactured in Toronto. Mr. Crawford is now a writer of Graham's system of shorthand, and does no discredit to it. He first learned the tenth edition of Isaac Pitman—but prefers Graham's system to that.