

stretches where great strength is required. Homogeneous wire can be made of any degree of softness, and in longer lengths than iron; and its tensile strength, combined with flexibility, prevents many breakages that would take place if ordinary wire were used.

He further read another letter addressed to Sir John Rose by a gentleman of experience, to whom he applied for information, to the effect that a ton of homogeneous wire costs now in London from 32 pounds to 33 pounds. In 1865 and 1866, when the material was first used for cables, the price was from 47 pounds to 50 pounds.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) said the agreement was to take over the wire at its actual cost, and there would be no doubt from the explanation that that had been done.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that the suspicions of the committee had been raised in consequence of the extraordinary price charged, a merchant conversant with such matters having stated that steel wire could be bought at half the price. No one supposed that the Hudson's Bay Company desired to cheat the Government, but it was thought that a mistake had been made. He admitted that the documents read to the House fully explained the matter.

Mr. SMITH (Selkirk) explained that the wire had been selected by the Hudson's Bay Company from its great lightness. The weight which in iron wire would extend for one hundred miles would in this wire be sufficient for three hundred.

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REPORTS OF DEBATES

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD brought up a matter which he said had previously been brought up within closed doors, and it was desired that it should be brought up when the doors were open. He held in his hand a paper, signed by 130 members, proposing that a purchase be made of copies of a Report of Debates of the House for the Sessions of 1870 and 1871, published by James Cotton, of the *Ottawa Times*.

He desired to move that the Committee on internal economy of the House be instructed to purchase a certain number of copies of these reports, for distribution among the members. He thought it highly desirable that the project of publishing the debates should be encouraged and the only way to encourage it was by Parliamentary assistance. The general public would not, it was well known, purchase those reports, but it was a record of great value, and he regretted extremely that careful official reports had not been taken from the beginning of this Parliament.

In England no Parliamentary assistance was needed, because members there were wealthy and paid their five guineas every session for Hansard. It was not so in this country. A sufficient number of copies could not be sold to remunerate the publisher.

It was unfortunate that they had not a full and correct report from the beginning, but he hoped the liberality of the House, on the present occasion, would encourage some publisher to compile and publish reports for 1868-9. Unless this was done now it could not be done at all.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North): What number do you propose?

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD thought two copies for each member of both Houses would not be too many.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said, in the first place, the House had already decided upon the question adversely, and he did not think it fair to the House to bring up such a motion as this at the last day of the session. The hon. gentleman knew that this was a partisan report. He (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had always voted for obtaining a report prepared under the supervision of a Committee of the House; but it would be remembered that that scheme broke down and Mr. Cotton proceeded with this report upon his own responsibility, knowing that the House had declined to sanction his report.

He personally was willing to purchase a few copies for his own use, but this report could not in any sense be called a fair report of the proceedings of the House. As to the round-robin read by the Premier, some members who signed it told him afterwards that they did it under a misapprehension, and no doubt others had also done so. Such a document could not bind the House in any way. These things should be done in open Parliament, and not when nearly all the members had left. He thought this motion could not be entertained at present. It was at any rate entirely out of order.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said that the report did not bear a partisan character as an examination of the volumes would show. The reports had been careful to give a fair and impartial report of what took place. As to the proposal having been negatived, he thought that a mistake. A proposal for an official report of the debates was, it was true, negatived; but the general feeling was expressed at the last session that it was desirable to have such reports, the proposal only being defeated through the somewhat peculiar proposal of an opponent of the measure.

He felt that if measures were not taken to secure the substance of the discussions being handed down, showing the reasons for many of the measures being passed, a large outlay would have to be incurred by private individuals, or they would have to leave the proceedings of Parliament unreproduced.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved, seconded by **Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER**, "That it be entrusted to the Commissioners of the internal economy of the House to arrange for the purchase of 600 copies of the report of the Parliamentary proceedings known as the Canadian Hansard, for the session of 1870-71 for the use of members, the cost of the same to be charged to contingencies."