

Westminster, the two experts, to whom I have just referred, proceed in their recommendations as set out on page 41 of the report:

Hence a different remedy must be applied, and in our opinion it is advisable, in the interests not only of the proper management of the Printing Bureau, but of the conduct of the printing business of parliament and of all the departments of the government, that there should be some body, bureau, committee, or commission charged with the following duties:—

1. Supervision of the material to be included in departmental reports.
2. Supervision of copy for reports and other publications.
3. Supervision of the translation of all reports and publications.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you will observe, this matter mentioned by the hon. member in support of his motion, is one that is very particularly dealt with in this report. The remedy that is here prescribed for the evil is one which is deserving of the serious consideration of this House. Briefly, what is here proposed is that there should be established, between the Printing Bureau, on the one hand, and parliament and the departments on the other hand, a clearing house to which all copy from parliament, and the different departments should be sent. In that bureau, committee, or, for the sake of more apt illustration, clearing house, as I prefer to call it, there would be a corps of officials especially skilled in dealing with work of that class. If copy was not in proper condition to be sent to the Bureau it would be sent back to the department from which it came in order to have the necessary corrections made. Such a bureau or clearing house would also perform another very necessary function, if properly manned, and there would be no trouble in having it properly manned. If the officials now doing work of this character in the different departments and in the offices of parliament were all assembled in such a bureau they would perform another necessary work namely that of supervising translations from one official language to another. If that were done the work of these departments and parliament would, in my opinion, not only be very much simplified, but there would also be a very great saving to the country and the standard of our official publications would be materially raised.

That, Sir, is one of the matters which I shall ask the special joint committee, that I hope this parliament will later appoint, to deal with particularly. In this regard might I also point out that the experts whom I have mentioned make another recommendation dealing with this very evil and, as a remedy within the Bureau itself, they suggest the appointment of an officer who would have charge of composition—

the comptroller of composition, I believe, he is called. I may say, Sir, that such an officer has been appointed.

Mr. REID (Grenville). Who is it?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. M. Draper.

Mr. REID (Grenville). Was he an official of the department?

Mr. MURPHY. An official of the department and one of the most capable officials employed therein. He has been appointed comptroller of composition so that there also another recommendation of the experts has been acted upon and effect given to it. My hon. friend quoted some material sent from the Department of Militia and Defence and founded some argument upon the condition of the copy as a further reason why his motion should be adopted. If my memory serves me correctly, the copy to which he referred was copy furnished for the publication known as the King's Regulations. Regarding the printing of that volume a difference of opinion arose during the inquiry between the former Superintendent of Printing, Mr. McMahon, and the gentleman who had charge of this outside work—Mr. Cook. It appeared from the evidence that Mr. Cook had sent this work to be done at an outside office, and a great many of the difficulties encountered in connection with the printing of the volume were due to the work having been sent outside. The former Superintendent of Printing contended that it could have been done just as well in the Bureau, and cited in support of his contention the fact that the French edition of the book was being printed in the Bureau at the time that work was given out.

Mr. REID (Grenville). Who sent it?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Cook, so that if there is any fault to be found in the regard it is a matter for which Mr. Cook was responsible. The bad copy that afterwards was mentioned, the changes that were made in connection with the work and the resulting increase in the cost were explained by the Department of Militia and Defence and it was simply one of those occurrences that are bound to happen in connection with a publication of that character.

Now, my hon. friend made a reference to the letting of a contract for a publication called Farm Weeds by Mr. Cook, and said that after the contract had been made another official went around the different offices in the United States and Canada, and got prices to lay before the minister. Inadvertently my hon. friend quoted the wrong publication. It was not Farm Weeds, but another publication called Farm Grasses. In connection with that transaction it might be well for me to give the House somewhat full details, so that hon.