

# THE CANADIAN

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#### Editorial and Contributed.

OFFICIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.  
The Commons Staff and its Work—Biographical  
Sketches of the Hansard Reporters.

**W**E publish in this number portraits of the members of the Official Reporting Staff of the House of Commons. Under the new system they become officers of the House and hold their appointments direct from Parliament, in contradistinction to the contract system. The salaries to be paid during next session will be as follows: Chief reporter, \$1,500, assistant reporters, \$1,000 each; assistant to the chief reporter \$500. The *Globe* in commenting on the capabilities of the gentlemen composing the staff, recently said they included probably all the best talent, but it was doubtful whether they could be retained for any length of time at the salaries named. There is no doubt much force in the warning thus given. The gentlemen have accepted the positions in the belief that the drawbacks which have hitherto attended the publication of the official debates may be altogether removed and success achieved. Instead of the reports being three or four weeks in arrear at the close of the session, it is resolved that a daily issue shall be made and that bound volumes be ready a few days after prorogation. In order to accomplish this desirable result the form of the *Congressional Record* has been adopted, and other measures have been taken to insure rapid publication as well as accurate reports. When these combined results are obtained the official reports will become not only valuable as a permanent record, but extremely useful to the public journals, especially country weeklies, desiring to publish *in extenso* the speeches of the representatives of their particular districts. That they will be secured by the adoption of the new system, under which able and experienced reporters familiar with Parliamentary work have been brought together under a competent and popular Chief, is already assured.

We subjoin brief notes on the "reporting" lives of the members of the official corps.

**M**R. G. BRADLEY, Chief Reporter. Son of the late George Bradley, Esq., of Newcastle on Tyne, a leading newspaper proprietor in the North of England, and a talented writer and reporter; also inventor of a system of shorthand. Was trained for the press under his late father, and subsequently held positions on English daily and weekly journals. Having received a liberal offer to join an American daily, Mr. Bradley crossed the Atlantic to investigate the journalistic field in Canada and the United States. His cis-atlantic engagements have included reportorial and editorial appointments on the *Mail*, the *Globe*, the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. Was associated with Messrs. Burgess, George Holland and Samuel Hutchinson in issuing the first official reports of the House of Commons debates, in 1874. Was subsequently a partner with Messrs. Richardson and Lumsden in the publication of *Hansard*. Reported officially many Commissions, Investigations, &c.; and was appointed by the Governments of Great Britain, United States and Canada, to report the evidence and entire proceedings of the Halifax Fishery Commission, during its four months' session. Mr. Bradley has filled the positions of Secretary and President of the Reporters' Gallery of the Ontario Legislature. In 1873 he was Secretary of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Ottawa. Last year he was unanimously elected its President, a post which he still occupies, and which was held during his early years in the Gallery by his then employer, Mr. Thos. White, M.P. Mr. Bradley is in his thirty-fifth year.

**M**R. ISAAC WATSON was born in the County of Armagh, Ireland, in the year 1839, and reared in Belfast. Being attracted to the press, he began to learn shorthand, not long after his arrival in Montreal, and in 1858, was qualified to write a sketch for a newspaper or report a speaker of moderate speed. In 1859, he became reporter for the *Commercial Advertiser*, that has been succeeded by the *Star*, working for the *Advertiser* three