

who, being good workmen, are also men with families resident in Ottawa, when the time comes, as it must soon come, for reducing the present unusually large staff. There is not at Ottawa, as in the great centres of business, a large labour market, and it is as well for the men who are pressing for admission into the Bureau to remember that when work becomes slack there is absolutely no other course to follow than to reduce the staff.

**Proof-reading.**—The rule has heretofore been that proofs when signed for press by the department ordering the work shall go to press without further revision in the Bureau. The proof-readers of the Bureau used to see only the first galley, or office, proof. If there were one officer in each department conversant with proof-reading this plan might answer; but, as previously stated, that is far from being the case. The consequence has been that every man followed his own ideas respecting spelling, and such words as “plow” or “plough” may be seen on alternate pages of the same pamphlet. The excessive use of capital letters also causes trouble in the Bureau, because, many of the departmental proof-readers observe no settled rule, and the same word often occurs, with and without capitals, not only in the same pamphlet but on the same page. When an attempt is made in the Bureau to make it uniform, one way or the other, it is sometimes resented as a personal matter. The excessive use of capital letters for common nouns in the body of a work is not seen now in work done in large offices. Everywhere it is the rule that large printing offices have a “use” or standard to which authors must defer. Some offices in the United States make Webster and others Worcester their standard, and a compositor who is obliged to spell “center” in one would be dismissed for not spelling “centre” in another. It is, perhaps, not generally known, that the “use” or standard of the Government Printing Bureau is the Imperial Dictionary, and by the authority of Council that excellent standard is paramount in the proof-room. The whole question was argued out two years ago, and the Queen’s Printer’s staff has neither the right nor the wish to deviate from the decision then made. The final revises are now sent to the proof-room for signature in order that an attempt may be made to carry out that uniformity of spelling which the Government has ordered for the Bureau.

**Extension of the Building.**—The Printing Bureau is now occupied from attic to cellar, and the work has been overflowing the limits of the building. Upon my arrival I found that the long and arduous session of Parliament, which had just closed, had filled it to repletion with work. Unfolded sheets were piled up on every floor, delaying the work passing through by clogging up the space for moving round. The bindery was loaded down beyond all possibility of recovering itself unaided, and there was no space in which to put extra hands. As the meeting of Parliament approached, it became clear that some extraordinary means had to be adopted to clear off the accumulation of arrears. Arrangements were made with a firm in the city by which they undertook to fold and complete 267,500 pamphlet reports, and for six weeks there was an outside staff of sixty hands working on these. More recently, a lot of 50,000 pamphlets had, in like manner, to be put out for want of space. The portion of the building occupied as a pamphlet bindery is far too small for the quantity of work to be done. The departmental composing room is too crowded