

the succeeding Parliament would not, I fear, meet the view of the hon. member for South Huron, as his suggestion is that many ex-members would like to keep up the continuity of their sets. I had a letter the other day from an ex-Speaker, not of the Dominion Parliament, but of the old Legislature of Canada, and he desired to obtain the Sessional Papers. So far as the discussion has proceeded, it is manifest that the suggestion cannot be carried out, except at a very considerably increased expense.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before I made the suggestion, I entered into a little calculation, from which it appeared that the additional number of Sessional Papers required would not exceed 250 or 300.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). What we thought was this: every member receives two copies of the Sessional Papers and Journals; and as the former member of the county would be a prominent man, he might probably be able to obtain a copy from the member.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Copies might be furnished only to those who applied for them, and a considerable number of ex-members would never apply.

Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds). I think it would be advisable that our Mechanics' Institutes and public libraries should be supplied with copies of *Hansard*.

Mr. BERGIN. Extra copies of *Hansard* were allowed to members of this House last year for the very purpose suggested now by the member for Leeds, that is, that they might provide the different institutions of this kind in their constituencies with this delightful literature.

Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds). But we did not get them.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). You will, this year.

Mr. CHARLTON. The Secretary of State, a few moments ago, informed us that it was contemplated by the Government to establish a Government printing house. I would like to enquire whether a plan has been decided upon by the Government, whether the present mode of printing has been found to be a satisfactory one, and if they have arrived at the conclusion that the work could be done more cheaply and more satisfactorily by another system?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The hon. gentleman knows that there is a Committee of the House now enquiring into that matter, and that they will give the House and the Government the result of their enquiries. The Government has not yet come to any decision about the subject, and I think, before doing so, we will make enquiries into the working of the system in the neighbouring Republic; and in any case, it would only be after full enquiry that the Government would make such a change.

Mr. MILLS. Will this practically be a revival of the old Queen's Printer system?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The whole matter is now under consideration, but I may say that I do not think the present system is very economical, and certainly we do not find it conducive to speed and regularity. We hear complaints about the issue of the Statutes being postponed for months, when they should be issued a few weeks after Parliament prorogues. We find, as I suppose hon. gentlemen opposite did, that the printing of Bills, reports, &c., are very much delayed, and sometimes these delays are exceedingly vexatious. I believe the experience in Washington has not been favourable to economy in printing, but there they have plenty of money and they are rather inclined in those things to be extravagant. In England, the system of printing under the Queen's Printer, Mr. Spottiswood, and the management of the Stationery Department, under the well-known Mr. W. R. Greg, has proved to be most economical, the paper being procured at a cheaper rate than under a contract, and the

work being carried on with all promptness and regularity. In fact, the printing of the Statutes, which is done by the Government Department, has been found to be a matter of profit. Of course, there the issue of free documents is very limited indeed, and they are sold at a rate a little more than their actual cost, and, as I said, there has been a profit. I do not think, however, we can hope to introduce that here just now. The custom has been from the beginning to make large issues of Statutes, reports, &c., and to distribute them freely; and in the case of important Bills or returns, or other important public documents, large extra issues are asked for, and are printed and freely distributed. I do not think public opinion would be satisfied at present with the alteration of that system, by the cutting down the free issue and the selling of the documents, though it might be an economical system. I do not suppose we could hope to attain the same results as in England, though it would greatly conduce to regularity and speed to have the work done in one Department. The hon. gentleman asks if the old system of a Queen's Printer would be re-instituted. The fact is, that the expense of that system was so great that it broke down—it is only *in nubibus*, and would have to be commenced on a different footing and with a view to the custom in England, rather than that in Washington. However, as we have arrived at no practical conclusion on that subject, it is hardly worth while discussing it farther just now.

Mr. MILLS. The reason I referred to the old Queen's Printer system was, that the present proposal looked almost to me, like a revival of that system, which broke down because it was not satisfactory. I do not know that we can look to the English system, because there, as the hon. gentleman has said, the free distribution is very limited. The documents are printed at a fixed price, and given to those who are ready to pay that amount; whereas, in the American system there is a very large free distribution. In the American system, there has been found to be very great extravagance, as the Government there have taxed the people very highly, and the difficulty is to find objects on which to expend their money, and, as we have noticed they are spending very large amounts in pensions. The pension list has grown so that we should almost imagine that millions of people were engaged in the public service during the Civil War. This has gone on increasing, year after year, until now there are several hundred thousand people on the pension list. The hon. gentleman has the same fiscal system here, the same advantages in the way of high protection —

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Here comes the National Policy again!

Mr. MILLS. Yes; and so long as those views are dominant and a large public expenditure, the same results will follow as in the United States. If the hon. gentleman is anxious to economize, he should hesitate about keeping up that system.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is one grand distinction between Washington and here; there they find great difficulty in expending their surplus, and here I do not think we shall find any difficulty of that sort.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman. I think there is the strongest probability that that difficulty will not stand in his way.

Mr. CHARLTON. If the Government adopt the new system of printing, I suppose it should stop the system of having the Government sending their printing to Chatham and other outside places, as at present.

Mr. BOWELL. Yes; or to St. John or Halifax.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, there is something in that.