

for the accommodation of six months' supply of printing paper, as well as the safe keeping of the printed sheets of the blue books while being printed.

The Sub-Committee recommend that the estimate of \$35,000, as the sum which will probably be required for the printing services of Parliament for the fiscal year, commencing on the 1st of July, 1873, be approved of; but as the Session progresses, should it appear from the work to be performed that a further sum will be required, the Committee will submit such further supplementary estimate as may be necessary.

The Sub-Committee, in submitting their Report, would beg to express their approval of the manner in which their Clerk, Mr. *Hartney*, has performed the duties pertaining to his office during the past year.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

J. SIMPSON, Chairman.

M. BOWELL.

JAMES YOUNG.

WILLIAM WALLACE.

A. W. McLELAN.

RUFUS STEPHENSON.

REPORT OF THE CLERK.

COMMITTEE ROOM, 5th March, 1873.

To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee on Printing :

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit the Parliamentary Printing Account Annual Balance Sheet, by which it will be seen that the cost of the Printing services of Parliament for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1872, is \$28,295.50.

The several books, together with the accounts and vouchers for the verification of the same, are ready for the audit.

The Committee will observe that the expenditure has been less than usual. This has arisen from Parliament having been in Session till the middle of June; and as all accounts are peremptorily closed on the 30th of that month, being the end of the fiscal year, a large quantity of work was left unfinished, which had to be performed and paid for in the subsequent year. Thus, in all probability, the balance sheet for 1872-73 will shew a correspondingly increased expenditure.

The contractor for the printing paper has punctually furnished the paper as required, of the full weight and generally of the quality specified in the contract.

With regard to the printing, the routine work during the Session is fairly kept up, but much that ought to be done has to be kept back till the recess. Then the urgency of getting out the Statutes or some other Departmental work is pleaded as a reason why the delivery of Parliamentary documents is retarded. This should not be so. But whether the present competitive rates will either enable or warrant the necessary outlay required to do justice to the work, is a question.

With reference to the binding: one establishment does the whole Parliamentary and Departmental work. The Statutes and our Sessional papers are generally ready for binding at the same time; and in the endeavour to please by hurrying both, the work was slighted during the past year. The binder pleads in extenuation the loss of nearly all the material and machinery from the destruction of his premises by fire. I have notified him that his work is not according to contract.

With the work of next Session the present contracts expire; but there is a provision in those for the printing and printing paper by which, at the option and by the direction of the two Houses of Parliament, they may be continued during the further period of five years.

I would earnestly urge upon the Committee the necessity of storage room being provided in the vaults exclusively for the use of the Printing Department. Property, to the amount of many thousands of dollars, is now annually stored for safety in a room common to many other purposes, thus exposed to danger from accident and speculation.