

unfortunate, this arose from a change of circumstances entirely beyond his control, and, not necessarily to be anticipated. The Committee think, therefore, it is their duty to recommend that an allowance should be made, which would relieve him of the heavy loss which he has sustained from this cause in the past.

Having thus disposed of the difficulties as applicable to the past, our next step in the performance of the duty assigned to us, is to suggest a course which, in our judgment, would have the effect of placing the Printing Services on a sounder and more satisfactory basis for the future. What, therefore, we would recommend, after full consideration, is to fix upon fair and reasonable prices for the work, applicable to all the printing Contracts. We consider this is indispensable, to enable us to cover the two grounds of difficulty with which we have to deal,—that is to say, the loss of the payment of the second price for the printing of the Departmental Reports, and the loss sustained on the difference in the cost of labor. Here the allowance of a simple percentage would not, it seems to us, at all meet the case, as the Parliamentary tender, in the first place, was founded to meet the advantage known to accrue from the payment of second prices, and then, in the next place, on the very same ground in the matter of the Departmental tender, the Contractor knowing that he would then be bound by a certain fixed tariff in charging for the Reports required for the use of the Departments, the calculations in both cases having thus been altogether set at naught. The whole thing is thus simplified; for we have to deal solely with the value of the work, and with that alone; and to do this intelligently, we have to apply to it the practical knowledge of the printing business possessed by the majority of the members of this Sub-Committee. Dealing then with the matter as it stands at this moment, with the two important points mentioned to be considered as affecting the future, we have arrived at the conclusion that no man can possibly attempt to do the work of composition and press-work satisfactorily, paying present price for labour, interest on capital, depreciation from wear and tear, rent and taxes, and the other incidental expenses, at a less price than forty cents for the former, and thirty cents for the latter, with thirty cents per hour for corrections—twenty-five cents being the actual journeyman's wages. These prices, it must be borne in mind, are from twenty-five to thirty-three and one third per cent. lower than the lowest that are, as a general rule, obtained by master-printers all through the country from the general public, and therefore we think they must be considered as exceedingly reasonable as applicable to the public printing. With regard to the other items of the contracts, we do not think it is necessary to deal with them. To our minds they are exceedingly low—perhaps too low for reasonable profit; but as they are comparatively unimportant, and as there seems no possibility of much, if any, serious loss accruing on them, we would recommend that they be allowed to stand as they are.

In concluding this Report, it has occurred to us that it might be in the interest of the Public Service if the whole management of the printing were placed under one head—say that of the Secretary of State, as is the case with the Departmental Printing, and the printing of the *Canada Gazette* and the Laws. By this means a direct control and responsibility would exist for the whole, the Joint Committee on Printing giving a general supervision as at present.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For evidence in substantiation of the above conclusions, we refer to reports, documents, &c., hereunto appended.

COMMITTEE ROOM, }
OTTAWA, April 8, 1873. }

RUFUS STEPHENSON,
WILLIAM WALLACE,
CHARLES E. CHURCH.