

contracts of a duration longer or shorter than a day. The only reasonable hypothesis applicable to the circumstances would seem to be, that it was the purpose of the legislature to create a lien in favour of workmen hired either *by time* or by the piece, and that, owing to the inadvertence or ignorance of the draftsman and other persons concerned in the framing of the statute, the more restricted phrase, "by the day," was inserted.

If the form in which this provision of the Act was passed is to be explained in this manner,—and the explanation is apparently the only one which is available to preserve the Manitoba House of Assembly from the imputation of having deliberately made an arbitrary, not to say absurd, distinction between one particular class of workmen and others equally deserving of protection,—the perpetration of an error so easily avoidable, and productive of so much disappointment to those whom it has prejudiced, affords a very striking proof of the urgent need for improving the system of Parliamentary drafting in this country.

The existing arrangements in some of the provinces are far from being satisfactory. Mistakes of the kind here adverted to would seldom occur, if adequate skill and care were expended in the selection of the phraseology to be used in enactments which alter the existing law. The exercise of such skill and care can be secured only in one way, that is to say, by utilizing expert knowledge to a much greater extent than at present. No statute should be framed without the assistance of a specialist who is qualified not merely to supply the language which will render it a clear and complete expression of the will of the legislature, but also of appreciating thoroughly the operation of each of its provisions with reference both to other enactments and to the departments of case-law which it affects. It is also desirable that a specialist should keep a close watch upon each measure during its progress through the legislature, so that the persons who have it in charge may be kept fully informed as to the consequences of any amendments that may be admitted in the course of the debates. Under the improved system to which these