

ending wants, have about as much chance to go slow as does the calf hitched behind the farmer's wagon.

Parliament works on the average about six months in the year. It has an output of two large volumes of new laws, every word of which has had to be considered over and over by either house, every change or proposed change being meantime kept track of. Over any word in any of these laws, and at any stage of consideration, there may be any kind of trouble from a half-hour wrangle to a political crisis. When the House of Commons, in 1885, sat plumb through without a break from Monday afternoon until Saturday at midnight, talking all the time, the one subject considered was the word "Indian" in the Franchise Bill. And they didn't pass it even then until a lot more rumpus had been raised about it.

Besides the statutes, Parliament puts out reports galore. There are standing committees to consider and report upon many kinds of things. But if some member happens to think of some subject for which there is no committee, he straightway moves for a special committee, and, if granted, this body gets to work taking evidence and preparing a report like the rest. Parliament calls for papers on anything and everything. If it is suspected that Dougald McDougald, one time employee on a breakwater in Cape Breton, was paid \$1.75 a day instead of \$1.50 a day like his fellow-laborers, a return may be called for of all reports, correspondence, drawings, specifications, pay-rolls, and other documents relating to breakwaters in or near the Island of Cape Breton from Confederation to the present time. True, the work of preparing these returns falls upon officers in other departments, but the duty of receiving them, caring for them, keeping them from being mislaid by members whose one idea is to win points in the fiercely exciting

game in which they are engaged falls upon the officers of Parliament.

Parliament also has as part of its output—Hansard. This is a shellful of books closely printed and of forbidding appearance. Each House has its own Hansard. The words spoken in the debates are here recorded,—all of them. How true is that Scripture which says that of the making of books there is no end! And when all this work of debating, taking evidence, preparing reports and making laws, has been done in one language, it must straightway be put into another language, for both French and English are official in Canada, and nowhere is it more necessary to remember this fact than in Parliament. Nobody finds fault with the arrangement, but it means the duplication of an immense proportion of the work done by the civil servants whose work is connected with legislation.

And to get these men elected, to prepare their work, keep track of all they do, clear up everything after they go home, and keep shop all the year round, there are about 330 people all-told, from the clerks of the Houses in their dignified places at their several tables to the extra charwomen who sweep and scrub the paper-littered floor in the early hours after adjournment. Of this number, only about 150 are permanent employees, and these include messengers, watchmen, carpenters and other workmen and attendants of various kinds.

On the regular staff of the Senate are 32 people altogether, including the clerk and his staff, record-keepers in different branches, translators, messengers and others. The House of Commons, which, by reason of its greater membership and its more important place in legislative business, must work much longer hours and at much higher pressure, has 75 regular officers engaged in clerical work, some of a