

MR. MASSON said he had no complaint to make about the *Hansard*; he understood the difficulties the reporters had to contend with, especially with regard to himself; but what he had to complain of was the translation of the *Hansard*. The translation two or three years ago was something awful. That of last year was a great deal better; there were parts of it that were excellent, but there were other parts that were really absurd. As an instance, he might mention that, when he spoke upon the question of the prayers, upon which he took strong grounds, he said that the first Commoner should say the prayers, but the French translation of the *Hansard* made him say to the House, "que ce devoir devrait être rempli par le premier venu." If the matter were not so serious, he would be inclined to laugh, and he could not but think that the matter should receive careful consideration. This was the record for or against hon. members, and, in going through some parts of the country, among the French population this year, he had found the *Hansard* everywhere; but it was natural that the French would not refer to the English *Hansard* to see what their representatives had been doing, but would go to the French copy. And not only in the *Hansard*, but in the Statutes, he had the same thing to complain of, and in the translation of the Sessional Papers also there was ground for complaint. He had compared the French with the English copy of the *Hansard*, and, in the former, had found that the most absurd and damaging things appeared. He believed the motion would meet with the approbation of most of the French speakers. They must have a *Hansard* which expressed their ideas as they were expressed in this House.

MR. DESJARDINS said it would be unjust to leave unanswered the remarks which had just fallen from his hon. friend the member for Terrebonne (Mr. Masson), and leave the House under the impression that the French translators had not done their duty last year. They were bound to remember that this work had been executed under very difficult circumstances. The steps that had been taken to secure the translation of *Han-*

sard had only been decided on late in the Session, and the hasty selection of the necessary staff had caused part of the translation to be confided to persons who were, perhaps, of inferior ability. But it being understood that the work would be given this year to the same officers who had charge of it previously, he anticipated that the translation for the present Session would be such as would render justice to the speeches delivered by hon. members.

MR. ROSS (West Middlesex) said he was quite aware there was considerable delay in having the bound volumes of the *Hansard* issued at the close of last Session, and considerable delay in having the daily report of the speeches laid upon the desks.

MR. HOLTON: I did not complain of the bound volumes, but of the daily reports. We did not get them last Session until August.

MR. ROSS said this matter came before the attention of the Committee of the House last Session, and a new indenture was drawn up between the House and the contractor for the *Hansard*, in which a clause was inserted to the effect that the contractor should forfeit a penalty of \$15 per day if his share of the work was not completed in time. Of course last Session their contractor had entered for the first time upon this delicate and difficult task, and the Committee were aware there were many difficulties to be surmounted which he would not expect to encounter during the present Session. He hoped they would be able this Session, by the removal of several difficulties, as well as from the increased skill and experience of their contractor, to comply with the intentions of the Committee, in having the reports laid upon the desks of hon. members at least within twenty-four hours of the time at which the speech was delivered. The matter was one which had been surrounded by great difficulties from its inception, but he believed these difficulties were being removed from year to year, and he hoped the result this year would be more satisfactory than in previous years.