

been delivered. When they are delivered and room can be found to place them, the Commons' *Hansard* also may be set by them; for then skilled compositors will have been trained to use them in the Bureau and confidence in them will be established. Without entering into the question of the merits of the different classes of machines it may be said here that no machine would have suited the needs of the Printing Bureau which is not able to set a line as short as the *Hansard* and as long as the line of the departmental reports; for, when the House is not in session, the machines must be adaptable to the wider pages of other work or they must lie idle for eight months, and machines of this kind should be kept constantly running or they are liable to deteriorate. The first pamphlet set in Canada by a linotype machine was printed at the Bureau in February, for the Department of Agriculture. It was twenty-four ems wide or double the width of an ordinary newspaper column. This demonstrates that the linotype may be used for a measure double the usual width of newspaper columns. Before undertaking the Commons' *Hansard* a small electric motor should be provided, because that work is done at night when the steam is shut off. It will not be economical to run the steam-engine for the six-horse power required by eight linotypes; more especially as the large electric plant is running all night with abundant surplus energy at no extra cost.

**Question of Cost resumed.**—The issue of stationery is hedged about by many regulations, and in each department there is one clerk who attends to the requisitions and receives the goods. If this be necessary in so simple a matter, comparatively, as stationery, there should be in each department a clerk to attend to the printing; for the number of men able to put a report properly through the press is fewer than is generally supposed. Much of the cost is not chargeable to the Bureau, for a great deal of copy is indifferently prepared, and is made fit for publication only by continuous alterations on the margins of the proofs. That is an expensive way of writing a book.

It often happens also that the reading of proofs is entrusted to inexperienced persons and revise after revise is had to meet the changes made before the proofs are finally signed for press. A great deal of proof has passed under my notice which, if fresh copy could be got, it would be cheaper to distribute and re-set rather than correct. The time spent has to be charged, whether it is spent in setting or correcting; a fact seldom realized by any one when documents are re-written on proofs. To a certain extent alterations inevitably occur, even when copy is prepared by a careful hand; but it is cheaper, and in the end speedier, to spend a little extra time over the copy rather than to defer the inevitable labour of revision until the matter is seen in type. Seeing, however, that some alterations must necessarily occur, it is worth the attention of those who wish to economize time and the public money to know that to reserve them for insertion in page proofs is making them cost the utmost possible amount and cause the longest possible delay. The omission or insertion of a few lines in a page must cause the overrunning of the same number on every succeeding page, and will often necessitate the re-adjustment of the foot notes or side notes. All alterations can surely be made on galley proofs—even when the copy is badly prepared.

**Standard of Production.**—The Printing Bureau is what is called a “fair” office; that is an office employing only men who are members of the Typographical