

information obtained from the different Departments, he has done it, along with the Parliamentary work, satisfactorily, especially when it is considered he came new to the whole and the great volume of the work. Nothing occurred to check the even course of things until the Session of 1870, when the late Printing Committee discovered that Mr. Taylor was being paid for the printing of the Departmental Reports under each contract—the Parliamentary and Departmental. It was thought by a small majority that this should not be allowed, and a resolution was adopted recommending the Heads of Departments to order the number of copies they required through the Clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing. Mr. Taylor remonstrated with the Government, on the ground that such action sapped the very foundation on which he had based his tenders. The reply was that, while that was doubtless the case, and that the action was as unexpected on one side as the other, there was no remedy except through the Printing Committee. Accordingly, in the Session of 1871, Mr. Taylor appealed to the Committee to reconsider the matter: but, by a vote of eleven to nine, it reaffirmed the principle that the double charges should not be allowed. Upon this a friendly suit was entered into to try the question whether Mr. Taylor was entitled to be paid under both contracts. We have obtained from the Court a certified copy of the papers and the judgment; and in regard to the latter we find that—while on the technical ground of the work not having been ordered to be done by the Departments by “requisition” it could not be charged for under the Departmental contract,—the opinion is clearly indicated that the spirit and intention under which the Departmental contract was entered into, at least on the part of Mr. Taylor, was set aside or evaded by ordering for both Parliament and the Departments under the Parliamentary Contract alone. This judgment was delivered on the third of March instant. Immediately afterwards, Mr. Taylor intimated to the Government, that having failed to obtain redress last year from the Printing Committee and now from the Court, however inconvenient it might prove to the Public Service, no alternative was left to him but to close his establishment, as it was impossible for him to go on with the heavy daily loss he was sustaining from not being paid the money he felt was justly due to him, added to the unexpected and unprecedented rise in the price of labor. The Government feeling the gravity of the state of things, urged him to continue work under the contract until the matter could be considered by the Printing Committee, promising to indemnify him from any loss in the meantime.

We have thus succinctly and impartially set forth all the facts which have led to the present unfortunate complication: and, as stated at the outset, we feel the serious responsibility devolving upon us in approaching a solution of it. One thing to our minds is clear—that, while the right to order the printing of the Departmental Reports in the way now done is now undoubtedly established, it has been the means of perpetrating a great wrong and injustice to Mr. Taylor, in view of all the circumstances under which the printing had previously been done and under which tenders were asked for. That being the case, it seems to us that simple justice requires that Mr. Taylor should be paid what in all equity he is entitled to; and if the principle laid down by the Printing Committee is to be followed hereafter, then there should be a re-arrangement of the prices to suit the unexpected and altered condition of things. But this brings us to the application which was made by Mr. Taylor for an increase of prices prior to the late judgment being given, and which must be disposed of in connection with the other question. There is no doubt, from enquiries we have made, and of our own knowledge, that between the time he tendered for the Parliamentary Printing and the time he entered on his contract—a period of some seven or eight months—there was the rise he mentions of twenty-five per cent. in the cost of labor, and that he has suffered serious loss from that cause for now over three years. Since the beginning of January, the rise has been increased to forty per cent.—a figure so unexampled in Canada and necessarily unexpected, that it is not to be wondered at that he finds himself constrained to call on the Printing Committee to help him out of his difficulty.

The Committee cannot but sympathise with him, believing that his calculations, as matters stood when he tendered for the contracts, were fair and business like. Although