

cept one or two, and I hope to lay them on the Table this afternoon. Any papers in the department will be laid on the Table this afternoon or to-morrow.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to have a statement of the work done by the registrar, Mr. Girouard, in the Yukon, as registrar, from the time he began his office work down to the latest date possible.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOISTING OF THE FLAG ON AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY'S BUILDING.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I would crave the indulgence of the House with respect to a remark by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), on Wednesday last, regarding a matter which he considered important, though I did not. He said that the company which is manufacturing stamps and bank notes for the government had not exhibited the flag on the occasion of the celebration, so general in the city, of the occupation of Pretoria. While I do not attach any importance to the point as to whether they did or did not raise the flag, it is due to the company to say, that I received from its representative, Mr. Myers, a letter, in which he says: 'I personally raised the Dominion flag on Tuesday morning, the 6th instant, on learning the news from Pretoria.'

Mr. G. E. TAYLOR (South Leeds). In reply to the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance, I may say that when I made that statement in the House, the flag was not up, and had not been up that day. My hon. friend from London (Mr. Beattie), drew my attention to it, and I went out at noon, and looked for myself, before making the statement.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have made no statement of my personal knowledge, but have simply read the words which the manager, Mr. Myers, wrote me. He says that he personally raised the Dominion flag, on Tuesday morning, the 6th instant, on hearing the news from Pretoria and I know Mr. Myers to be a gentleman of good repute.

Mr. T. BEATTIE (London). If he hoisted the flag, he must have taken it down as soon as he raised it. Mr. Klopfer, Mr. Carscallen and myself, were around there and did not see it.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock), found out whether there was any sufficient reason given by the caretaker of the Bathurst post office, for not having raised the flag the other day, and for having refused to raise it on the day of the relief of Mafeking? The newspapers have called attention to this, and an injustice may have been done the caretaker.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The postmaster at Bathurst has his instructions as to the days on which to hoist the flag, and on that particular morning, he telegraphed to the department for instructions, and was instructed to hoist it, so that his hesitation was due to his waiting for instructions, and was not intentional on his part at all.

#### TRANSLATION OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. F. A. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the House to an article which appeared recently in *Le Journal*. It is in connection with a letter from Mr. Larose, chief of the translating staff of the *Hansard*. The article runs as follows:—

The French 'Hansard.'

The chief of the translating staff, Mr. Larose, writes to the 'Journal' and informs us that his duties, as well as those of his colleagues, are not confined to translating the speeches of members from English into French. He says: 'It must not be lost sight of that as there are no other translators of the debates than those who are always called, I do not know why, French translators, it is also upon them that devolves the task of translating into English all the French speeches delivered in the House of Commons.'

That goes to show still more forcibly that there should be added to the staff three or four good French translators, in order that the French edition of 'Hansard' should not remain more than two or three days behind the English edition.

As to the translation of the French speeches into English, as this is quite a distinct work, it should be done by a separate staff.

There is not and there will never be found a translator with such a mastery of the genius of each language as to translate from French into English and from English into French with such a degree of perfection as is required from official translators. Parliament does not pay the official translators sufficient salaries to remunerate a man of so rare a merit.

As the translation of the Debates is in a backward state, I particularly call the atten-