

matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records."

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the report of the Librarian of Parliament, on the state of the Library of Parliament.

#### OFFICIAL REPORTING OF THE DEBATES

##### REMARKS.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that on Monday next he would propose the appointment of a Committee regarding the supervision of the reporting of the debates. In the meantime, he thought it might be perhaps well for hon. gentlemen to consider whether it was desirable that the system of last year should be continued; the one volume which contained the debates of last Session being extremely voluminous and inconvenient, and whether it might be desirable or not to curtail the reporting of the debates somewhat so as to compress it within one reasonable volume, or to extend it indefinitely according to the character and extent of the debates. He merely asked the attention of the House to the subject in order that, when the Government asked for a Committee on Monday, the House might come to some definite understanding on these points.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he quite agreed with the hon. member that it was extremely inconvenient to publish the debates in so large a volume. It was not a pocketable by any means, which could be carried about anywhere; but he would be very sorry to see the reporting of the debates curtailed, for, to be valuable, it should be as full as possible, perhaps not the *ipsissima verba*, but nevertheless so full as to give as nearly as possible the whole sum and substance of whatever each member said. Otherwise, the value of the reporting would be greatly diminished. As regarded the portability of the volume, he thought some arrangement might be made by which

Mr. MACKENZIE.

the debates of each Session would be spread over two volumes, and in a few years he believed three would be required for the purpose.

House adjourned at  
Twenty minutes to  
Four o'clock.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 11th Feb., 1878.

The Speaker took the chair at Three o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House—Account Current of the Accountant of the House of Commons, of the amount received and disbursed by him for Contingencies, from the 1st July, 1876, to the 1st July 1877 with the Auditor's Report.

#### OFFICIAL REPORTING OF THE DEBATES

##### COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

Mr. ROSS (West Middlesex) moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed, to supervise the official Report of the Debates of this House during the present Session; with power to report from time to time; said Committee to be composed of Messrs. ROSS (Middlesex), Oliver, Dymond, Béchard, Charlton, Tupper, Bowell, Desjardins and Colby."

Mr. HOLTON said he did not object to the motion on the ground that it was not a right and proper motion, for, of course, it was the settled policy of the House to continue these reports, but they had strong complaints last year of the extraordinary delay which took place in the distribution of the reports. The delay was so great that the reports were really of no practical value, except as records of proceedings for reference in after years. He hoped the Committee proposed by his hon. friend, the member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross) would see that arrangements were made this year to secure a prompter distribution of the reports than took place last year. He was quite sure that such was the sense of the House at large, and he hoped that expression would be given to that sense by other members.