

better striking of committees than appears in this report. I do not purpose to make any motion on this question at all. I can quite see that if the majority in this House persist in the adoption of this report, it can be carried. I have directed sufficient attention to the composition of the committees, to the number of men who are left off the committee altogether, to the number on one committee, to the fact that some are on five committees, and leave it to the judgment of the members of this House to refer the report back to the committee to see if a better adjustment can not be made. I can quite understand that a number of members of this House, because of their peculiar adaptability for committee work, might be on every committee. I can understand that the minority might be on every committee of this House, and then have only their fair representation. The members of the minority, as a rule, are on more committees than the members of the majority, because they are fewer in numbers, and if they are to have any representation at all, they must serve on more committees than their opponents. That is the experience I have had in parliamentary work, and in striking committees and giving representation to the minority. I submit this statement of facts: the figures are accurate, for I have checked them out. If the majority of this House insist on the committees being composed as reported, for the time being the minority will have to submit; but I do not think it is wise on the part of the majority to act in this manner on the striking of committees. I do not think it is fair or right, and I submit the statement to the House, trusting that the majority may see fit to reconsider the composition of these committees.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—As I said yesterday, it is very seldom the report of the Committee of Selection is questioned. I have served on that committee for the last two years, and have never heard a word of the political opinions of the members chosen to serve on the standing committees. My hon. friend from Marquette is of the opinion that the political opinions of the members who are chosen to serve on those committees have not been overlooked; but, as evidence of the contrary, I may tell him that on the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and

Hon. Mr. WATSON.

Harbours, Mr. McKay, from Montreal, who is not a Conservative, was chosen to take the place of Mr. Ross, who was a good Conservative. Nobody took exception to the choice made, because Mr. Ross, as hon. gentlemen are aware, is very ill and seldom comes to the Senate, and I had no objection, for my part, to the choice when Mr. McKay's name was suggested. I complied with the request with great pleasure. My attention was also called to the fact that Mr. Shehyn's name was on one or two committees, and I had no objection to substitute Mr. Shehyn's name for mine on the committee. I think those instances will furnish evidence that the choice made by the committee did not indicate political feeling on the part of any members of this House.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I would like to ask the hon. gentleman why some names were left off at all.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—We were not aware of that. As soon as somebody's name was mentioned, it was accepted on one side or the other.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—That is the reason why I think the report should be referred back.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—While it is perfectly clear that on all questions of policy this House is pretty well divided politically, and the lines are well defined, yet I am free to say that in the committees of the House politics have not been carried, and in the formation of committees political alliances have not been prominently regarded. As far as my recollection goes, the effort in the formation of all those committees has been that the different parts of the Dominion should be represented fairly. If you had that object in view, it would be quite impossible to regard the other objects. It is, as my hon. friend explained, unfortunate that one political party has a great predominance in the formation of the committees. It arises in a very natural way, from a disposition not to displace gentlemen who have fairly well discharged their duties in times past, and who express a desire to remain on the committee. The committees which have attracted most attention in the Senate are the Railways and Canals and Banking and Commerce, and in order to meet the pressure of members,