

will bear a very marked contrast with those of any other branch of the service. The statement as to stationery has been misrepresented disparagingly to the Senate. While the expenditure under this head for the departments has risen from \$67,000 to \$167,000 in ten years, ours has risen from \$5,000 to \$6,000 in the same period. While there has been that trifling increase in the Senate in ten years there has been in every other branch of the service an increase of about 100 per cent. What was the answer to that? That this committee was delegated to pare down the expenditures. The object is to make it appear that the Senate is extravagant. While time is expended on contemptible subjects of this kind the expenditure of the country has risen to \$50,000,000. That is the amount which is being voted by Parliament this year for the public service; yet we are charged with extravagance, because in ten years the expenditure for stationery has been increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000. There are departments in the Government where the expenditure for stationery is nearly double the amount of ours. I hope the Senate will adopt this report, and deprive the Government of the opportunity of saying that the Senate stands in the way of economizing, but it is a small way to economize to resort to cheese-paring, and diminishing the privileges and perquisites of the Senate.

HON. MR. READ—If this report is adopted, hereafter the Senate will be bound by it as by an Act of Parliament. I see that the report recommends that we can have only so many Pages, and that we can pay them only so much. I have been a member of the Senate for many years, and have been on the Contingencies Committee, and have had an opportunity of judging how many Pages are required and what their remuneration should be: hereafter we are to be bound by this report, and have no discretion. It is certainly taking away our privileges—taking away every little sort of authority we have. I remember when the Government attempted to take away the rooms occupied by the Black Rod in this House the Senate indignantly protested against it at once. We were told that the Usher of the Black Rod was not then a married man, and that he did not require the

rooms; but we said, though he is not a married man now he may be one at a future day, and we retained the rooms. Yet here we find an attempt from time to time to belittle the Senate in the eyes of the community. We are becoming less respected in the country, and the Government is more or less responsible for it. I have time and again raised my voice in caucus and on the floor of the House in protest against the action of the Government with regard to the Senate, the way it is treated and the way the public look at us. They tell us that we have not a member in the Senate with a portfolio. How is it in the House of Lords? How was it here at Confederation?

HON. MR. MILLER—We had half the Government.

HON. MR. READ—See how this House has been degraded from Confederation to the present time! I speak strongly, not because I consider that the Senate is a nonentity in the country: it is doing important work, and, for the most part, doing its duty. I do not think it has done its duty always. I hope that time will be given us to consider this report. The rule has been to bring the most important matters before us at the last moment, when we have no time to discuss them. This report contains sixty-three recommendations, yet we are asked to consider the whole of them at one sitting, although prorogation is to take place tomorrow. I think it is unfair to the Senate.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The question is, whether we should go into a discussion of this matter now, or wait until it comes properly before us this afternoon. I did not expect that the question would come up now, and therefore I am not prepared to go into it. I am glad this committee was appointed. From what has been said, and from what I know myself, it certainly did not emanate from the Government. It originated with the leader of the House on a question of increasing salaries, and it was suggested that we should have a committee of both Houses. The result of the investigation has been to show that there is no extravagance in the Senate. Whatever the leader of the Opposition may say here, the party with which he is