

and I found that the architect proposed to put that lift just inside the main door of the Parliament Buildings on the right hand side, where it was actually put. I pointed out to him that while he thought it was more symmetrical to have the lift there opposite the lift on the Commons end, if we were to have only one lift it should be put where it would be used by officers and members of the Senate, and that is the place where it would lead up to where the principal officers have their offices, and where a number of senators have their rooms. The architect looked upon me as more or less of a barbarian, lacking culture, although he was not a German, and he put the lift where hon. gentlemen know it was placed. The result was that as far as regards the officers and the bulk of the members of the House who wished to go from the ground floor up to the next floor above, it was practically of no use. It took as long to get around to where the lift was located as it did to go to the other staircase and walk up. I mention this to illustrate the fact that architects' views are sometimes not as practical as they might be. As I say, these plans that were on exhibition looked very nice, indeed, but practically they gave only the exterior of the building. I do not know just what is proposed to be done with respect to the interior, but I may mention some of the things that we hear. I have seen it stated in the newspapers, I think, as having been mentioned in the House of Commons, that in future there will be no living rooms for the Speakers of the two Houses. I do not propose to discuss that question, because it is a very doubtful problem, but I think that the proposal to take away the residential rooms from the Speakers of the two Houses is a very questionable policy. That is one of the things that the committee might consider. Then, again, it has been alleged that there is to be no restaurant in the reconstructed building. Well, if there are no Speakers' rooms and no restaurant—

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—I understand there is to be a restaurant; the Speaker of the House told me so.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Well, I do not know, I am only mentioning the things that one hears, and that is one of the things that should be found out. In every Parliament of any consequence there is a place where members can, if necessary, get meals.

Hon. Mr. POWER.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There is one in the Imperial Parliament.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Another thing: I think it was stated that the intention was to utilize the Library building as a reading room. Now, I suppose the Library is about the finest room in the whole Dominion of Canada, and the proposal to undertake to use that room just as a reading room is one that will not appeal to a man of culture. One or two other points I wish to say a word about: When the addition was made to the Commons end of the building a few years ago, there was one thing which I think every one felt, and that was that there was a great want of suitable committee rooms for the business of the Commons. The truth was that the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons upon the third floor was so large and its acoustic properties were so imperfect, that it was really a very unsuitable place for the meetings of committees, and because the Commons were rather aggressive, they had taken possession of two committee rooms which really belonged to the Senate, the committee rooms east of the old tower, and the Senate was pushed out of those rooms. When the addition was made some few years ago one would have thought that the first thing that would have been done was to have supplied good committee rooms for the House of Commons. Instead of that there was not a single committee room supplied. There were sitting rooms and business offices for the members of the Commons, but not a single committee room.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—Except the big Railway Committee.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The Railway Committee room was there before; the only addition made to the Commons building at that time which could be looked upon as being used for public purposes was the restaurant. I trust that a similar mistake will not be made now. It is very desirable, of course, that members of both Houses should have as many of the luxuries of home as are possible here; but I see it was suggested by some gentleman in another place that every member of the House of Commons should have an office to himself, and, I suppose, a typewriter. I have nothing more to say except this, that our committee, which is a standing committee, should have a hearing from whatever authority is going to finally decide on the character of the reconstruction.