

Mr. ROSS (West Middlesex) explained that the editor was responsible for a fair and impartial report of the debates, and he had been informed that such a report of the speech of the hon. member for Niagara had been taken.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON called attention to the fact that the hon. member for Niagara had not offered any motion, and he doubted very much whether any faithful report of the proceedings of the House could be made unless the subject matter under discussion was made to appear.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said it was customary for members in introducing a subject to make a speech and conclude with a motion, and the mere fact that six o'clock came while the hon. gentleman was speaking, and before he had handed in his motion, could certainly not require him to repeat his speech in order that it might be reported. With regard to the statement of the chairman of the Printing Committee that the speech of the hon. member for Niagara was reported he could only say it must have been done from memory or imagination for certainly the reporters did not take it down at the time.

Mr. DYMOND observed that the hon. gentleman had referred to the importance of the minority being reported. He thought it would be admitted that in proportion to their numbers they had taken up a very large space in the reports of the debates. As to the statement that the reporters had taken no notes of the speech of the hon. member for Niagara, those who were acquainted with the business of reporting knew how few notes it took to make up a long report.

LACHINE CANAL ENLARGEMENT.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK moved an address to His Excellency the Governor General for copies of all correspondence, letters or telegrams between the Government and the proprietors of land in the vicinity of the proposed enlargement of the Lachine Canal from 1st March, 1874, to the 1st March, 1875; also, all orders given to engineers as to information to be given to such proprietors and all requests for information made to the Government or engineers, and all reports made to the Department of Public Works between above dates, relating to the right of way requisite for enlargement of Lachine Canal. He said in making this

Mr. Ross.

motion he deemed it almost unnecessary to state that he was not actuated at all by any personal motive. In the reports spread through the newspaper press, the names of certain public men mentioned in connection with these lands and insinuations made, which, if untrue, should be put down, and their falsehood exposed at the earliest possible moment. The characters of our public men did not belong to one side of the House or the other, but to the whole country, and it was desirable for these reasons that the papers should be brought down, and the House should have some authentic and official statement of what had taken place. It was for this reason he felt it his duty to make this motion.

Mr. JETTE thanked the hon. member for Frontenac for putting this motion on the notice paper, and also for moving it to-day, in order to better suit his (Mr. JETTE'S) convenience. He believed as the hon. member did that the good reputation of our public men was the measure of their usefulness, and this would be his excuse for feeling so sensitive with regard to the charges made against him. When this matter was first brought before this House, he deemed it his duty to give a distinct denial to the charges made against him, especially as regards that which appeared in the French papers of Quebec. That charge was that in this purchase of property in Montreal, he had used his influence to become acquainted with some of the designs of the Government as to the enlargement of the Lachine Canal, and so to secure for himself and his associates a good speculation. This he denied; and this denial he was ready to repeat to-day. He believed it was his privilege and duty to put the entire case before the House in order that no imputation might go before the public without meeting with such a correction as he could offer. This property was purchased about the month of April, 1874. In September he decided to sell it as soon as possible at auction, and as it was perfectly well known by the public in general that the Lachine Canal was to be enlarged, or that some works were to be executed in order to construct a new canal at this point, he believed it was his duty to inform the Government of the proposed sale, in order that they should take such proceedings as they deemed advisable to expropriate our property if necessary, and so pro-