

Mr. Jones (Leeds), said he might differ from the recommendations of the Committee in some respects, but being earnestly desirous to carry out retrenchment, he was willing that the whole report should be adopted.

Mr. Pope was willing that the number of officers should be reduced, but he thought it was cheese-paring economy to make a general reduction of salaries by 12½ per cent. If the work of the House was to be well done, its officers should be sufficiently paid.

Mr. Bodwell said the cry of cheese-paring was always the argument when any scheme of retrenchment was proposed. There was a general feeling throughout the country that retrenchment should be carried into the departments of the Government. He hoped measures would be taken to meet this feeling. He thought the present report was a good beginning. He would not be deterred by the cry of "cheese-paring". Let the cents be taken care of and the dollars would take care of themselves. He argued that those who did their duties well should be paid well, but he believed the officers of the House generally, even after this reduction, would be better paid than other men equally qualified and discharging equally responsible duties in the private walks of life. Men of education throughout the country, qualified to fill almost any position, were receiving from \$300 to \$500 for teaching school, while the messengers of this House and many men without education were to receive, even after the reduction, \$600. It was said there was great injustice in cutting down the salaries of those who had been employed by the House for forty years. This was not strictly correct. This House of Commons was a new body, the employees of the old Parliament of Canada might have some claim on account of the length of their services, but it was not the Parliament of the Dominion which was bound to recognize that claim. It was a matter for the consideration of the Provinces of Canada just as it was the Legislature of the Lower Provinces which had to do justice to the claims of the employees of those Provinces.

Mr. Mills remarked that the officers of this House would, after the reductions proposed by the Committee, be as well paid as those of the departments. In his opinion they should be paid on the same scale as officers of departments, and have salaries regulated as in the Civil Service Bill.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau alluded to the high rates of living, and although in favour of

retrenchment, was of opinion that many employees were not overpaid.

Mr. Bellerose objected to the non-committal remarks of the honourable member for Quebec. He (Mr. Bellerose) was in favour of paying men according to their ability to discharge their duties, and although he was in favour of retrenchment, he was not in favour of this report.

Mr. Masson (Terrebonne) said retrenchment was a very popular cry, but injudicious retrenchment would cause a great deal of injustice, and would not really benefit the public. He opposed the report.

After the recess,

Mr. J. S. Ross said he did not agree with the principle adopted by the committee, of taking off so much per cent from all the salaries. He believed there ought to be discrimination—that some ought to be reduced more and some less, that in making any reduction due regard ought to be had to the importance of the services of each employee. In estimating the amount of payment in these cases a comparison ought to be made with bank clerks, clerks in commercial houses, school teachers, and persons of that class, and if this were done, he thought it would be seen that the employees of that House were not underpaid.

Mr. Speaker, acknowledging the ability displayed by the Committee in the preparation of the Report, still felt it his duty to warn the House that the Report went too far. (Hear, hear, and applause.) While some officers of the House had been invited to give information to the Committee, others had not been, and from the results of an enquiry, instituted at his request, by an officer of the House, whose ability and zeal were unquestionable, (Mr. Wicksteed) he was able to state that so far as the duties of the House officials being less than in the old Legislative Assembly they were very much greater. He proceeded to read from Mr. Wicksteed's report, from which it appeared that the duties of French translators frequently occupied the translators fifteen hours daily in the Session, and had to be continued to their completion almost through the whole of the recess. The translators were gentlemen of high attainments, their work being very difficult as well as laborious, and requiring both close attention and large research. In the last Session of the House of Assembly the translation had covered 3,175 pages, and in the present Ses-