

Again, in the year 1880, we find that Mr. Kirkpatrick, in the House of Commons, moved, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, that the Clerk of the Senate be requested to furnish details of the mileage and indemnity accounts of Senators, also details of sittings, number of days' attendance, etc., and this demand was complied with and a statement sent to the House of Commons. But by this Message we are asked not only to send a statement, but also to send our officers to be examined on the items, to oblige them to appear before the Public Accounts Committee, so that they can be examined as to the details of our expenditure. I believe that that is a question of privilege for this House. It came before the House before in 1870, when a similar demand was made.

The House of Commons then asked that Mr. Taylor be sent before the Public Accounts Committee to give evidence concerning mileage and indemnity. This was explicitly refused by this House, and instead of sending Mr. Taylor to give the information asked for, a statement was sent to the Commons. I have made search in "May on Parliamentary Practice," and also in *Hansard*, which is considered, I believe, in parliamentary procedure, as a bible. I could not find one precedent for a case of this kind in the House of Lords. The only precedent I find, and I think there is no analogy between that precedent and this case, was a message sent by the House of Lords and agreed to by the Commons, asking that the Clerk and Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons be allowed to attend a committee of the House of Lords for the purpose of giving evidence respecting the mode of keeping records and of conducting public business—not to enquire into the expenditure of the House, but to enquire into the method of keeping the records and of conducting public business? This was agreed to, and we find that in England the House of Lords have always had control and exclusive supervision of their accounts. Since 1869, I believe, in England estimates are sent by the House of Lords to the House of Commons. These estimates may be refused, and they can be reduced, but the House of Commons have always thought it their duty to grant all estimates asked for by the House of Lords, leaving it to that House to use its own discretion. In the year 1887 there was a Royal Commission

appointed to investigate all the public offices, and this commission did not think it proper to investigate the offices of the House of Lords. The examination of the expenditure of the House of Lords was made by a Select Standing Committee appointed by that House. I believe if we follow all these precedents we will come to the conclusion that the control and supervision of our expenditure is left to this House, and at the same time this House must give all proper information that may be asked for. This we are willing to do. We have nothing to hide, and I think that under these circumstances it would be well for the House to pass unani- mously the resolution which I now propose, as follows:—

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons, to inform that House, in answer to its Message requesting the Senate to grant leave to the officers in charge of the stationery and contingencies of the Senate to attend before the Select Standing Committee of the Commons on Public Accounts, at their next meeting, to give information respecting the distribution of such stationery and the expenditure for contingencies, as set out on pages D. 17 and 18 of the Report of the Auditor General on Appropriation Accounts, for the year ended 30th June, 1889; and to bring with them all records relating to such items;— that all matters in relation to the internal economy of this House are under the control and supervision of its Committee on Contingent Accounts, subject to approval of the Senate; that the said committee is now engaged in examining the accounts and vouchers of the Clerk, including the distribution of stationery and expenditure referred to in the said Message, and that as soon as the report is submitted by the said committee to this House it will be transmitted to the House of Commons for the use of its Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned at 5 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Friday, February 28th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills, reported from the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbors, without amendment, were read the third time and passed:

Bill (No. 27) "An Act to incorporate the Sault Ste. Marie and Hudson's Bay Railway Company." (Mr. Read.)