

He thought it was of great importance that they should have a full report of the speeches delivered here. He believed it was important to the people. He believed the people had as much right to know how their representatives speak in this House as well as how they vote. It was not less important to the representatives themselves, most of whom, he was sure, must have seen themselves credited every week, in reports of their speeches, with statements they never thought of making, not, however, from any want of ability of carefulness on the part of the reporters for the press, but from the circumstances that the reports have to be prepared late at night, and telegraphed before appearing in print.

This matter had been delayed from session to session, and he thought it was now time to take it up. He could well understand how valuable a *Hansard* might be in time to come. If they could have a correct record of the speeches made it would, in fact, be our history, commercially, constitutionally, and otherwise. They had in this House gentlemen who were responsible mainly for the Confederation of this Dominion, and it might be important in future years, when these gentlemen had passed away, to be able to turn to their speeches, and see how they regarded the various portions of that constitution under which we are to be governed for all time to come.

Objections had, he believed, been raised to the publishing of the debates, but they had not, in his opinion, much force. The first of these had reference to the question of expense. He believed they now kept one man engaged in the Library in pasting the reports of different newspapers into a book. Now it seemed to him contemptible that this Dominion had to preserve the speeches of its public men in this way. He had no doubt that a Select Committee would be able to propose a scheme which would not be seriously expensive. In fact, if they considered the total expenditure of this House, the amount would be comparatively trifling.

It had been urged that if they were to publish the debates in this way they would have gentlemen speaking at inordinate length. Now, he believed the publication of reports of the speeches in the *Hansard* would have the opposite effect. Gentlemen knew that they might say the most absurd things and that by the generosity of the gentlemen in the gallery they would be rounded off into shape, but if they knew they were to be fully reported they would be more useful about what they said, and the tendency would be toward the curtailment of the debates.

He thought that at any rate the *Hansard* would have the effect of raising the tone of the debate. In England, in the United States and in Australia the debates were reported, and probably the best report of the kind he had seen, outside of the English *Hansard*, was that published by the Legislature of the little Colony of New Zealand. In Nova Scotia the debates were published; in New Brunswick they were published until recently, and copies of the report were to be found in the library. If he was not mistaken, the Legislature of Prince Edward Island also published theirs. He thought that if these Provinces were able to do this, it was absurd to say that this Dominion could not publish the debates which took place in its

Legislature. He hoped the House would have no hesitation in granting this Committee.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER, in seconding the motion, said that he did not think he need say anything in addition to the remarks which had been made by the hon. gentleman who had just spoken with reference to having a correct report of the debates. He did not intend to say anything which would reflect upon the Press of either this or other cities, but he would say that in the reporting of the debates there was room for improvement. In Ottawa, a city of comparatively small size, it was unreasonable to expect the papers to give a full report of the speeches in that House; and the great trouble and expense of sending reports by telegraph rendered it very difficult to have adequate reports published in papers in other cities.

It was well known that he had taken a very great interest in this matter from the first time that he had entered this House, but he was satisfied that no great good would be accomplished unless the Government could be induced to take the matter up. He might say that if matters had remained as they were, the late Government would have been disposed to submit to parliament a scheme for the reporting of debates, and he could assure hon. gentlemen opposite that it would give him the greatest possible pleasure to co-operate with them in regard to this proposal in any way, to give effect to what he thought was indispensable, not only with a view to giving information to the people throughout the country, but with a view to the still more important object of furnishing perhaps the only reliable means that historians would have of gaining information as to the events which were transpiring in the present day. He had no doubt that the time would come when these early phases in the history of our Dominion would be regarded with the most intense interest, and when people would seek with the same avidity as we now do for authentic materials of what was going on in former days. He trusted the subject would receive in all its relations the consideration which he thought its importance demanded.

The motion was carried.

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JUDGES' TRAVELLING EXPENSES

Mr. BÉCHARD moved for copies of all accounts, claims and certificates presented and transmitted from 1st July, 1867, to 1st April, 1874, to the Dominion Government by each of the Judges of the Superior Court for the Province of Quebec, in his capacity as such, for all travelling expenses and hotel expenses in any place other than that in which such judge had orders to reside or should have resided, either for sitting or for acting therein, or for holding therein in such capacity a court in civil, criminal, or other matters, together with a detailed statement of the several sums paid in conformity with such accounts, claims, and certificates.

Hon. Mr. DORION said the accounts could be given for the two years previous to the present year, but not for the present year.

The motion was carried.