

with the reporting of the committee stage in Parliament. There seems to be no good reason why the proceedings on a Bill in Committee of the Whole should be reported any more than the proceedings of a standing committee. One is as important as the other. Hence it seems to me that, upon a presentation of this consideration to both Chambers of Parliament, we might arrive at a very much more economic administration of the reporting of Parliament than we have at the present time. If the committee stage were not reported, it seems to me that it would shorten the sittings of Parliament very considerably. There is no question but that many members, particularly in the House of Commons, deliver themselves of general views upon all questions because of the greater latitude allowed in committee than in the House, and thus the sessions are prolonged from day to day, from week to week, and even from month to month. The reporting in committee, in my judgment, resulted in the development of the obstruction of Parliament in the transaction of public business. These are features which might be very advantageously considered by a joint committee of both Houses. Therefore it seems to me that it would be premature at once to take action by a vote on this resolution to-night, owing to our not having digested the question as fully as we should, and I hope that my honourable friend, in view of the importance of the subject and the desirability of giving every consideration to it, will not press his motion to a conclusion this evening.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I intended, if my honourable friend from Halifax had pressed his motion, to move an amendment that the reporting of the committee stage be discontinued, because it seems to me that we could well dispense with that part of the reporting, and thus perhaps give an example to the House of Commons of what could be done in the way of reducing expenses and shortening the length of our sessions. I am disposed, however, to view the matter in the same light as my honourable friend the leader of the Government, and join with him in suggesting that next year a joint committee of both Houses be appointed to discuss this question.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: In view of the discussion that has taken place, I shall have very much pleasure in acceding to the suggestion of the honourable leader of the House, and withdraw my motion. At the same time I want it distinctly understood

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

that I regard this question in a much more serious light than the honourable member for Victoria (Hon. Mr. Cloran) appears to do, and I hope that early next session it will be taken up in earnest, and, if Hansard is not altogether abolished, there will be, at any rate, very drastic reforms made in the present system, and great economies carried out.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: No objection to that.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: In this connection I would like to say that I have been favoured by His Honour the Speaker with what appears to me, from a casual perusal of it, to be a valuable report by Mr. Fréchette, for many years an official of Parliament. In 1909, on the eve of his retirement, he was appointed a commissioner to visit some European countries where dual languages are recognized as official, and he made a brief but valuable report to Parliament which would throw considerable light on our own situation. Unfortunately, the printed copies of this report were destroyed in the fire when the Parliament buildings were burned three years ago, and only one or two copies are now in existence, and these are in the French language. The following is a translation of a portion of the report dealing with the reporting of the debates in Belgium and Switzerland:

In order to avoid overloading the present report, I shall omit reference to the third national language in Switzerland, the Italian, which is spoken by only a very small minority and for which there exists, by general consent, only a very limited translation service.

In Belgium the total of population is not appreciably different from ours. In Switzerland it is only about half. As to the number of persons in either country speaking one or other of the official languages (Italian excepted), the language of the majority bears about the same relation to the language of the minority as does the English to the French language in Canada.

In Belgium and Switzerland, as in Canada, the Debates are delivered in one or other of the official languages of the country. In Belgium, where the House of Representatives is composed of 152 members and the sittings are from 2 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, an analytic report or résumé of the debates is published the same evening. On the third day after the sitting, at 8 a.m., a stenographic report is published in extenso under the title of "Parliamentary Annals." These "Annals" contain the speeches at length, but only in the language in which they are delivered. If a member has not revised the stenographic report of his speech within 48 hours, his speech is reported only in résumé, instead of being reproduced verbatim in the Parliamentary Annals, and mention is made of that fact.

The House of Representatives in Belgium have, for their debates: 1st, a staff of stenog-