

ence to the nomination of my hon. friend from Amherst, he has anticipated me in the reason which I would have given to my hon. friend from Nova Scotia (Mr. Kaulbach) for his not being included in this committee. It is quite unnecessary, I think, for me to say before this House that the Government and the House would undoubtedly esteem it a great advantage and benefit to the administration of justice in this committee to have the assistance of my hon. friend from Amherst. The incalculable value of his labours as chairman of the Railway Committee, the patient industry and the skill with which he has conducted for some time that committee, and the important measures which are passed upon by it, would be sufficient of themselves, without the knowledge of his conduct in the business of this House otherwise, to satisfy anyone that his presence on the committee must of necessity be of great advantage to it. I learned with extreme regret from the hon. gentleman himself that he preferred not to be placed on the committee during the present session.

HON. MR. REESOR—Under all the circumstances, while it remains the duty of the Senate to deal with cases of divorce, we ought to make it a point to have this committee as efficient as possible. I have watched the course of the committee for some years, and when my health was better I served on Divorce Committees myself, and I think there is no one in this House who has discharged his duty more equitably and with a better appreciation of the justice of the case than the hon. member from Amherst. It is a very great pity that he should decline to act on the committee, and I simply express the hope that he will reconsider his decision and will consent to act.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Perhaps the hon. gentleman from Amherst will state his reasons for declining to be a member of the committee; they might be obviated in some way.

HON. MR. DICKEY—The hon. leader of the Government has mentioned one of the strongest reasons that induced me to take the course I did—the reason that my time is, I am sorry to say, so constantly taken up during the session with the

most important of our committees that I do not feel I have the time to devote to these divorce cases. The chairman of the Divorce Committee—and every member of the committee is equally responsible with the chairman—requires to give his consecutive and undivided attention to these cases, and not unfrequently I found the two committees to clash, so that it was very difficult to arrange matters so that the public service could be dealt with in a proper way by being a member of both committees. That is one of the strongest reasons which induced me to request that my name be omitted, and which prevents me now from acceding to the kind request of my hon. friend.

The amendment was agreed to, and the motion as amended was adopted.

The Senate adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, May 6th, 1891.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMMITTEE ON CONTINGENCIES.

FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS.

HON. MR. READ, from the Committee on the Contingent Accounts of the Senate, presented their first and second reports, and moved, in view of the adjournment about to take place, that it be adopted forthwith.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE asked for information about the salaries of the messengers recommended for promotion.

HON. MR. READ—There is no increase of salaries.

HON. MR. MILLER—By a special provision made last year, it was arranged that all business of this kind should be taken up at the first meeting of the committee, especially as a number of changes had to be made in the staff of the Senate, and it was desirable that these should be inau-