

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think my hon. friend opposite did precisely as I did when I was leader; I took the position as it had formerly stood without any change.

Hon. Mr. CLEWOW—I will withdraw my name from the committee.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—As my hon. friend for Rideau has expressed his willingness to withdraw from the committee, I do not suppose the hon. leader of the House would have any objection to this, and if there is any other member of the committee who would give way cheerfully, a member from New Brunswick might be added.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—I do not wish to be on the committee myself. I would not accept the position now if it were offered, but I have taken notice of the fact that men have been made prominent by making them chairmen of committees for the last twenty years, to the detriment of other men.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—I wish it to be understood that I do not wish to be on the committee either. I suggested the name of Mr. Ferguson. There was very good reason for making some radical change in this committee, knowing as we do that the report of the committee last year was very unsatisfactory to a great many members of this House.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Well, that is moved.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have 24 members in this House, and three of them are members of this committee. Ontario has 24 senators, and it has four members on this committee; the province of Quebec, with 24 members in this House, has only one member on the committee. Therefore, if we are going to decide according to the number of representatives from each province, I should like to see more members from Quebec on the committee.

The motion as amended, substituting the name of Mr. Ferguson for that of Mr. Clewov, was agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

## THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Wednesday, 16th February, 1898.*

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### EXCLUSION OF JAPANESE FROM YUKON DISTRICT.

#### MOTION.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B. C.) rose to

Call the attention of the government to the necessity for prompt action being taken for the purpose of excluding all persons of the Japanese race from recording and working mineral claims in the Yukon District.

He said:—I hope the House and the government will recognize the great importance of this question. It will be a very serious matter if we allow hordes of Asiatics to come into our country, and take up our mineral claims. At present Chinamen are taxed for coming in, and Japanese come in free of taxation. I have no objection to their coming in as labourers, but the whole country objects seriously to their being allowed to come in and take up mineral lands. I noticed the other day in the newspapers a report that there were 5,000 of them coming from the Sandwich Islands under a company to work mineral claims in British Columbia, and after that I saw it reaffirmed that this had really been done, that the men had now been engaged, and would leave for British Columbia before long. I have nothing further to say on the subject, but I hope the government will see its way to prevent them taking up mineral claims by issuing instructions early to the officials in the Yukon district. It will be necessary also that this should be done speedily to prevent those people leaving their homes, and the Japanese consuls in Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver and other places should be cognizant of the fact that they will not be allowed to take up mineral claims in Canada.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Japan is recognized as a civilized state lying within the domain of international laws, and subject to the same rights, privileges and duties as every civilized state within that same domain. The hon. gentleman used the word "Asiatics."