

the opportunity appears to me a favourable one.

At all events, by agreeing to the resolution of the hon. member for Chambly-Verchères, the Parliament of Canada and the Government would acknowledge that French is one of the official languages in this country and is entitled to be spoken in this House. It will be the means of furthering good will between the various elements of the population of Canada, the best means of getting well acquainted with one another and opening unity and concord throughout the country.

The CHAIRMAN (translation): Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion should be adopted?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure but what I could make a better fist at speaking French than I can in understanding it when it is spoken across the floor of the House. Therefore, I have not been able to follow all that my hon. friend has said. The gist of his motion is quite apparent, and the only point that arises in my mind is this: I would rather that my hon. friend would not press his motion to a conclusion until some inquiry was made into the possibility of carrying out what he proposes in his motion in exactly the way that he wishes it carried out. I am entirely in sympathy with the idea that these speeches should be translated and at the disposal of the members in a reasonable time; and if it be true that it runs to five, or six, or seven months before these translations appear, that is not a condition of things that ought to be continued. My sympathy then is entirely with the purpose of the motion, but this is a matter which pertains to the management of the translators and the publishing of the debates, and is under the Debates Committee, composed of members of both sides of the House. I am informed that to carry out the exact wording of the motion of my hon. friend is physically impossible. So my suggestion to him is that, having brought the matter before the House, as he has done in a very temperate and full manner, he shall not press his motion to a conclusion; that it stand if he pleases, or that he withdraw it, as may seem best to him, and I will undertake that the matter shall be taken up at once and that we shall come to a conclusion which will be fair and also which will be possible of being carried out.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Shelburne and Queen's): Mr. Speaker, this motion has [Mr. d'Anjou.]

been moved and seconded by two French-speaking members. As a matter of fact, it is the English-speaking members who should desire the improvement that my hon. friend is asking for. Of course, the better thing would be—and I wish it were so—that all members of this House could speak both French and English, and in that respect our French friends put most of us to shame. Every one of them can speak and understand both languages, whereas but a limited number of the English members of this House have that pleasure, although the number has been enlarged lately by the addition of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster.) The only good thing we have out of the Peace Conference is that my right hon. friend has learned to speak French. It is a rather expensive lesson, but it is a good thing that we have some favourable results. But if we cannot all understand the French language and have the pleasure of listening to and enjoying the addresses of our French friends, the next best thing is that we shall as early as possible afterwards have those addresses translated into English. I heartily sympathize with the motion which, as I have already said, should come from us who are English Canadian rather than from those who are French. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has suggested some difficulties in the matter; these are for the consideration of the hon. gentleman who has made the motion, but I desire to express my hearty sympathy with the object he has in view.

Mr. E. B. DEVLIN (Wright) (translation): Mr. Speaker, before this resolution carries, I would like to add a few words to the remarks made by hon. members who have already spoken.

I must confess that unfortunately I do not frequently enough speak French in this House; to-day I make use of that language intentionally, because I absolutely recognize that both languages are official in the Canadian Parliament.

I am very glad that the hon. member for Chambly and Verchères has introduced the resolution now under discussion. It is most important that every member and every voter in this country should have in hand the speeches as delivered both in English and French. If more translators are required, it would be false economy not to appoint a greater number.

I do not want to make any lengthy remarks on this question, but I wish to tell my French colleagues, as has just been