

and that to by the minister himself, notwithstanding the denial by Mr. Schreiber and Mr. Jones, the Superintendent of Railways, and the Secretary of the department. That is my only apology, hon. gentlemen, for bringing this matter before the House. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not attribute any intentional misrepresentation on the part of the hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Casgrain) who has just entered the chamber. He made the statement, I have no doubt in good faith, on the authority of two of the most important officials of the Railway Department, but I think this House has a right to complain when such denials are given to those who should know better, in order to mislead the country on a subject of such importance.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE.

MOTIONS.

The Order of the Day being called,

Consideration of the Report of the Committee of Selection appointed to nominate the senators to serve on the several Standing Committees.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said: The duty of the Striking Committee was to make as few changes as possible in the majority of the Standing Committees of the House. When moving for the Striking Committee, I was perfectly frank with the House, expressing the opinion that I thought, as the government of the day were charged with the responsibility of legislation, it was only reasonable that on one or two of the principal committees, that is, the committee which controlled the expenditure and the committee on railways, telegraphs and harbours, the government should have a majority. I shall now take up the formation of the committees and make such comments on the action taken by the Striking Committee as may seem to be fair and proper. The first committee is the joint committee of the library of parliament. The only changes made in that committee as it stood last year were the substitution of Senator Landerkin for the late Senator Allen; the addition of Senator Thibaudeau, of Rigaud, and the substitution of Senator Belque for the late Senator Ross. Those are the only changes on that committee. I therefore move that the joint

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committee on the library of parliament be composed as follows:—

The Honourable the Speaker, and the Honourable Messieurs:—Baker, Belque, Boucherville, de, C.M.G., Casgrain (de Lanaudière), Drummond, Gowan, C.M.G., Hingston, Sir Wm., Kt., Landerkin, Masson, Miller, Pelletier, Sir Alphonse, K.C.M.G., Poirier, Scott, Thibaudeau (Rigaud), Wood (Westmorland), Young.—17.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I notice that the hon. Secretary of State proposes to consider each committee by itself and explain to the House the changes which have been made. However, he prefaced his motion by explaining the principle which guided the committee on selection in the formation of the standing committees. Since he has made those remarks I may refer to the general principle laid down in the formation of the committees of the Senate. When the committees are taken up seriatim we may refer to them in detail. Last year the Secretary of State laid down the principle, when this subject was under consideration, that the practice in the past should be followed, and as vacancies occurred in the Senate, the positions on the committees should be filled up by new members, and the political complexion of the members not considered. These were his own words. If we look at the formation of the committees as they are presented to us, we may well ask ourselves whether due consideration has been given to the principle laid down by the Secretary of State, or whether it has not been departed from or ignored. In a great many cases the oldest and most experienced members of the Senate have been dropped and replaced by some of the newer members who have just entered this chamber on the more numerous and important committees. In the past we all stood on an equality here. I think an examination of the committees will prove that statement to be correct, and I propose to show that it is correct. If you look at the formation of the committees you will find that there are a number on only one committee, some of them, no doubt, at their own request. Mr. Aikins is on one, Mr. Armand is on one, Mr. Baird, a gentleman who has had eighteen or nineteen years' experience in parliamentary life, who has been a member, if I am correctly informed, of the New Brunswick government, and who has had a seat in this House for a number of years, has been struck off