

Provinces—those, namely, of Ontario and Quebec—have responded; and the recommendation to which I have referred has been embodied in the report, simply for the purpose of informing members of the Local Legislatures of the other Provinces—who have complained that they have not received our documents—why these documents have not been sent to them, so that they may move their own officers to accept the suggestion which was made as to an exchange.

Mr. BLAKE. I cordially concur with the view of the hon. gentleman, that it would be a very great advantage to us if a few more of those rooms which were at our disposal in the earlier years of Confederation, should be restored to us by displacing or putting in some other places the officers who, from time to time, have been permitted to occupy them. I remember that during our earlier Parliaments there were a number of rooms which were available either as small committee-rooms or for the use of members in discharging that portion of their duties which cannot well be performed in this Chamber. But these have gradually been occupied—I do not say improperly, and perhaps there were fewer officers at that time—but I think it would not be unreasonable that accommodation should be found for them in some other places. Amongst the appliances which we require here for the efficient discharge of our duties, I know of nothing that is more lacking than a few rooms in which members can discuss public matters, arrange for the preparation of Bills, and generally perform that portion of our work which cannot conveniently be done in this Chamber, to which, however, many of us are now relegated for that purpose by the lack of accommodation elsewhere.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Translation). I think I can concur with the suggestions of my hon. friend the member from Cardwell (Mr. White). It is evident that the accommodation afforded to members is altogether insufficient. The employes suffer from this state of affairs. There is no doubt that an examination into the distribution of the apartments will induce the Internal Commission of the House to take some measures which, without increasing the expenses of the House, will render the situation much more convenient for us than it is at present. Certain employes have too extensive accommodation, and this should be remedied.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I agree with the hon. gentlemen who have spoken on this point that there is a want of accommodation for hon. members who may wish to retire from this Chamber to consult about matters public or otherwise; and I have no doubt that by a rearrangement of the accommodation in the building we would be able to find room enough for all the requirements of the House of Commons, as well as of the Senate, in that respect. Of course, it may be necessary to somewhat curtail the accommodation of some of our officers, at all events while the House is sitting. As to the time when the House is not sitting, of course nobody would complain of their occupying them; but while the House is in Session all available accommodation should be given to members of the House. For my own part, I shall have great pleasure in meeting yourself, Sir, and the hon. Speaker of the Senate, upon this matter after Parliament has prorogued, and I have no doubt we will be able to meet the requirements of the hon. members of the Commons at all events. As for the Senate, I do not know how they fare in that respect.

Mr. ROYAL. I am informed that the members from all the other Provinces have got the use of a room in this building; but that so far Manitoba has taken such a small space in the Confederation, that it is really impossible for the members from that Province to get the use of a room. If that idea is to be acted upon I hope that the rightful claims of Manitoba and the North-West will not be ignored. In fact, if we were to be given accommodation in proportion to our increase, I fear we would soon occupy one-third of this

whole building, but we do not ask for so much space as that. So far, however, it has been impossible for us who represent Manitoba as well as the North-West Territories to a certain extent, to obtain one single room in which we could come to an understanding, or discuss between ourselves any question that refers to Manitoba and the North-West.

Mr. BRECKEN. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat is slightly incorrect. Prince Edward Island has made several applications for a very small room, but in vain; and some hon. members from the other Maritime Provinces are subject to the same inconvenience. I hope that, when the hon. Minister of Public Works takes this matter into consideration, Prince Edward Island will be placed in as favorable a position as the great Province of Manitoba.

Mr. BAKER. As there seems to be a general complaint from the hon. members from the smaller Provinces, I should like the Province of British Columbia not to be forgotten. The hon. members from that Province number as many as those from Prince Edward Island, or Manitoba, and I hope that, when a re-adjustment of the rooms in this Building takes place, the claims of British Columbia will be taken into consideration.

Motion agreed to.

DEBATES ON CONFEDERATION.

Mr. LANDRY (Translation). Mr. Speaker: Before the Orders of the Day are discussed, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to what I consider a question of considerable importance, at least for the members of this House. We have a very precious volume which is called "Debates on Confederation." When we have occasion to consult this volume, to study any question, we are obliged to examine it throughout to find anything which may have a bearing on what we wish to study. Under these circumstances, I think the Government would render a great service to the members, and to the public generally, if it would cause to be prepared an analytical index, in order to facilitate our studies on the various subjects which the study of these debates may present.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN (Translation). Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared to give an affirmative answer to the hon. member, and yet I should observe that the suggestion which he makes is a very reasonable one. I will speak to my colleagues, and we will see what can be done in the matter.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Translation). Before the Orders of the Day are discussed, I wish to contradict a matter personal to myself, and which is in a report of an interview which took place last Saturday with the Government. Some of the Montreal journals would make it appear that I was one of a deputation which came from Quebec to oppose the action of the Government in taking control of the works to improve the river communication between Quebec and Montreal. As a matter of fact, supposing I was at the Capital on that day, I would have informed myself of the character of that deputation, which apparently was not a representative one, for I note that the three members from Quebec there, who are supposed to represent more immediately the interests of the city, were not members of the deputation, and those who are specially interested in this question, such as the members from Lévis (Mr. Blanchet) and from Montmorency (Mr. Valin) were absent. Now, as to the matter in which I am personally interested, I may observe that, far from approving of the course which it seemed advisable for these gentlemen to adopt, on every occasion when I had an opportunity of expressing my views