

tentive consideration; that consideration will be given. I have already discussed the subject to some extent with my colleagues, and I feel confident that we shall either adopt the report of the committee as it has been presented to the House, or modify it to the extent of having two or three members of the Government associated with the members of the Civil Service in the editorial committee referred to. That might, perhaps be desirable. However, we have not reached a fixed conclusion on that point. I am confident that some effective way of carrying out the suggestions of the committee will be found.

It is pointed out in the report that in some of the departments the recommendations made last year by the committee have been pretty fully carried out. In other departments, it is thought, there is still room for improvement. This report will be commended to the consideration of the permanent head of each department with a view to having the suggestions of the committee carried out in their entirety in the respective departments, unless there is good reason to the contrary. It is possible that in making some of these comments the committee did not have before them absolutely full information as to the subjects which are dealt with, but generally speaking I believe that the suggestions are worthy of consideration, which will be accorded.

As to the increased cost of printing during the last five years, it is due in part to the increased printing rendered necessary by the war and in part to the increased cost of paper, which has been very great, especially during the past two years. I have no objection to the House concurring in the report which the committee have made.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I am not sure that I approve the recommendations made with regard to certain information which is annually given to Parliament. The information given to Parliament by any department is under the responsibility of the minister; he prepares his own report every year, and he may supplement that report by other information which he thinks it advantageous to publish. I do not think that we can gain anything by taking away the responsibility of the minister in this matter. I see here that several—I will not say criticisms, rather reflections, are made with respect to some of the publications. The report of the committee says:

"Economy" will have to be Canada's watchword for many years to come, and the printing [Sir Robert Borden.]

Bills of Parliament and the public Departments present a fertile field for action in this regard. That our great neighbours to the south realize this in connection with Congressional publications is shown by the decision of the Senate of the United States to cut down this year its printing bills by \$470,000. This has been brought about by reducing the bulk of some reports and suspending entirely the publication of others.

Well, that is a matter for the minister. He is giving the information to the public; it is for him to see that that information is as concise as possible. It does not follow that the giving of the information should be entirely suppressed. Then the report goes on to mention the United States reports which have been cut down:

Among the latter may be mentioned: Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, Annual Report of Foreign Commerce and Navigation, Report of District of Columbia Health Office, Bulletins of the Bureau of Ethnology, annual report ditto; Bulletins of the Bureau of Fisheries, Geological Bulletins, Geological Professional papers, Geological Water Supply papers, Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences, Nautical Almanac, Annual Report of Bureau of Soils, and many others.

Some of our publications are similar to these. The Department of Trade and Commerce issues a good many reports; according to this recommendation, the precedent of the United States should be followed and many of those reports should be cut down. The report of the committee says that in the United States the monthly summary of foreign commerce has been eliminated. We have something like that here; it is a very useful publication, and should not be cut down. We have also a report of foreign commerce and navigation; I would say the same about that report. If we find that departmental publications are too bulky or give useless information, we can call attention to the matter, but for my part I should not like to suppress the publication of these reports or to take away from the minister the responsibility of having them brought down in proper form.

Mr. CURRIE: It is not the intention of the committee to take any of the responsibility from the minister. The formation of an editorial board will not have that effect; it will not interfere with the duties of the minister or the functions of the departments. It will endeavour to cut down the size of the volume by better editorial work and it will point out to a minister, when any of his officials send in a volume for publication, whether any other department has published a similar volume. The Conservation Commission, for instance, is issu-