

to delay the publication of the debate they went far beyond their authority.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—We did not delay it.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The result of the action of the committee was to delay the publication. Our reporters would not of their own will suppress or delay any report unless they had the authority of the committee, or some member of it, for doing so. It is some seventeen days since the debate took place, and it is not yet published.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—The House adjourned in the mean time.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—We are informed by the chairman of the committee that the day after the debate took place a meeting of the committee was held to deal with an entirely different matter. The committee consists of fifteen members, but there were only five present, and these dwindled down to three.

HON. MR. POWER—No.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The chairman of the committee so informed me. He said that only three members were present. The report has been delayed and the delay has occurred through the action of the committee. There is no good ground for the decision at which the committee arrived. Any one who heard the debate in question must have been struck with the manifest desire on all sides to avoid reflecting on the character of the parties affected by the report of the Committee on Contingencies. I repeat the Debates Committee exceeded their authority in the course they have taken. They were appointed to inquire into the best means to be adopted to obtain correct reports of the debates of the Senate and for the publication of the same, not for the suppression or delay of the debates. I say if they can do so in one case they can do so in any case.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—The hon. gentleman has stated that we suppressed the report of the debate; he has no right to say that. We did not suppress anything.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The committee have held back the report, and that is virtually suppressing it.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—We did not hold it back either.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Through the action of the committee the publication of the debate has been delayed. Generally when a debate has been suppressed it has been by an expression of opinion from the House, and not by the authority of the Debates Committee. It makes no difference to me personally whether my remarks on the occasion referred to appear in the official report or not, but it is important that we should have some expression of opinion from the House as to the extent of the committee's powers. As the hon. gentleman from Amherst says, at this time, when the Senate is accused of extravagance in our contingent accounts, and when we are desirous that no ground shall be given for any such imputations, it is most desirable that full reports of all the questions debated in this House should appear in the official report. I am sure that there is nothing in the debate which occurred on the 14th of February that could reflect on the character of the Senate or of any of its members or employes. There was a desire on all hands to avoid anything of the kind, and the reasons for recommending the superannuation of one of our employes were not as fully given as they should have been for that very reason. Had they been more fully stated I think the House would have considered that the reasons were not sufficient to justify the recommendation. I hope, therefore, that the report of the Debates Committee will be rejected. It would be a dangerous precedent to establish, to give the committee authority to suppress or delay the report of any debate of this House.

HON. MR. MILLER—This is a very small matter, and has already occupied a good deal of the time of the House. I think it can be settled without much difficulty. The report involves two points: first, the power of the committee with regard to delaying the publication of the debates; and secondly, the wisdom of the recommendation conveyed in the second clause. I do not think the committee had any intention to interfere with the privileges of the House or unfairly to interfere with the publication of the debates, but they presumed it would be