

member for Montreal East, Mr. Coursol. The hon. gentleman proposes to add the names of Mr. Desjardins and Mr. Amyot to the Committee on Privileges and Elections; I suggest that two other names be added to that committee. The hon. gentleman moves that Messrs. Desjardins, Amyot and Bergeron be added to the Railway Committee; I would suggest three names in addition. Then the hon. gentleman moves to add one name each to the Private Bills Committee, to the Banking Committee, and to the Public Accounts Committee; I shall move that one more be added to each of those committees. The hon. gentleman has also moved to add the name of Mr. Desjardins to the Printing Committee. If I understand the matter rightly, we have already one too many on that committee. Mr. Foster's name was left there by mistake, and should be withdrawn; so that, perhaps, the hon. gentleman would leave out that portion of his motion, to be dealt with afterwards, so as not to cause complication; because the hon. gentleman knows that the Printing Committee is a joint Committee, with a fixed number, and that the two Houses must have the same number.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It is not limited in number. The Senate can appoint another one also.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes; no doubt.

Mr. COURSOL. I understand Mr. Desjardins was on the committee last year, and I think he was a very useful member on that committee.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Perhaps the House will allow me to write my amendment.

Mr. BLAKE. While the hon. gentleman is engaged in writing his amendment, I would say that I think a mistake was made in the course of the proceedings in committee for which I hold myself responsible. I had supposed that the name of my hon. friend from Lévis (Dr. Guay) would be placed on some of the Standing Committees in the course of last Session, but it turned out that the election for Lévis came so late in the Session that there was no opportunity to do so. As sometimes happens when a vacancy is filled late, no change is thought worth while, so that no suggestion was made for the addition of his name. It is customary, of course, for every hon. member to be upon some committee, unless in exceptional circumstances, and I therefore suppose that there will be no objection to Dr. Guay being added to the committees on which his predecessor was placed, namely: the Committees on Banking and Commerce, and Immigration and Colonisation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Certainly. Last year the Printing Committee numbered fifteen, and I have no doubt that the Senate appointed a committee of fifteen. Mr. Foster, who was on it last year, we have struck out and replaced by another; but as the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) says, we may increase the number and ask the Senate to increase their contingent to the same number, so that we will leave Mr. Foster in, and by leaving him in, you can add Mr. Desjardins—that will make seventeen.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved in amendment to the amendment:

That the following Members be also added to the following Committees:—Sir Adolphe P. Oaron and Sir Hector Langevin to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections; Messrs. Bourbeau, Shakespeare and Hesson to the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines; Mr. Bain (Soulages) to the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills; Mr. Tasé to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts; Mr. Burns to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce; and Mr. Guay to the Select Standing Committees on Banking and Commerce and on Immigration and Colonisation.

Amendment to the amendment agreed to, and motion, as amended, agreed to.

## THE PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That a Message be sent to the Senate, requesting that their Honors will unite with this House in the formation of a Joint Committee of both Houses on the subject of the Printing of Parliament, and that the Members of the Select Standing Committee on Printing, viz.: Messrs. Allison, Baker (Missisquoi), Bergin, Blondeau, Bourassa, Bowell, Charlton, Desjardins, Foster, Innes, Landry (Montmagny), Somerville (Brant), Tasé, Taylor, Trow, Vanasse, and White (Cardwell) will act as Members on the part of this House of the said Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament.

Motion agreed to.

## REPORT PRESENTED.

Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

## FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 5) to extend the jurisdiction of the Maritime Court of Ontario.—(Mr. Allen.)

## PROPOSED COURT OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. McCARTHY moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 6) for constituting a Court of Railway Commissioners for Canada, and to amend the Consolidated Railway Act of 1879. He said: In introducing this Bill, I may say, Mr. Speaker, that it is the same Bill I had the honor of introducing last Session, and, practically, it is the same measure which was introduced in a former Session, which was read the second time and referred to the Railway Committee, by whom it was rejected by a very large majority. The Bill, upon being brought back to the House, was not voted upon, and I now re-introduce it for the purpose of carrying it through the second reading, with the hope that it may receive on this occasion a more favorable support than it did the Session to which I have referred. The provisions of the Act are, of course, well known to all hon. members, and I need not offer any further explanation at present. Substantially it is the same measure, founded on the lines of the English Railway Commission and purporting to constitute a court for the purpose of giving effect to the laws of the land with respect to railway companies. This House is aware that this is a very difficult problem to deal with; that in the adjoining country, most of the States, a very large number of them, at all events, have adopted in one shape or other some form of Railway Commission; that for the last seven or eight years the United States Congress has been endeavoring to agree upon a measure to regulate the railway commerce of the whole of the country. But, as I understand, while the House of Representatives has been able to agree to a Bill, and the Senate has also been able to agree upon a measure, both Houses have not been able to agree upon one particular measure, so up to this time no law has been passed constituting a court of Railway Commissioners or dealing with this great question by Congress for the United States as a whole. No measure, so far as I know, seems to have given more effect to the law or to be better adapted for the purpose for which it was intended than the Railway Commission established in England in 1872. So much is this the case that since then that court of commission, which was of a temporary character, has been from time to time extended, and certain of the powers of the commission have been enlarged; and both parties there have agreed apparently that the commissioners' powers ought to be extended; and I notice in the Speech from the Throne, on the opening of the new Parliament, that the late Government of Lord Salisbury brought it for-