

well. He knows what the consequences of any violation of that pledge would be, and therefore I think that he ought to be placed on probation, and not superannuated while he is yet young and able to discharge his duties.

HON. MR. MILLER—I feel very little personal interest in the question under consideration, and but for one thing I would be very indifferent whether the report is adopted or rejected. However, I would ask the House to consider that the Contingent Committee is a very large body; that this subject has gone twice before it; that a similar report came in with reference to these items some weeks ago, and that that report was sent back again to the Contingent committee; and the Committee, after full consideration, has re-reported to the same effect as on the first occasion. I think the House ought to take it for granted that a committee so large as that, after considering a question twice, and reporting again to the House—

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—Where it was fully discussed.

HON. MR. MILLER—Yes; where it was fully discussed, have not been hasty or unwise in the conclusion at which they have arrived. The question with regard to Davis is one possessing some rather delicate features, and the facts and details of it cannot be as well discussed in this House as they could be in committee. For my own part, I am not willing to repeat the arguments and statements made before the committee, and which were undoubtedly true, in reference to this young man; therefore, I do not think the House is in as good a position to form a conclusion on this question as the committee who had it under consideration. I wish the House to recollect that the Contingent Committee is a large committee, and they should also know this fact, that on the only division in that committee, on this report in connection with Davis, there were but five of a minority, and that after full discussion of the question. The hon. gentleman says we had no evidence. We had the best evidence before us of the physical incapacity of this messenger.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I did not say the committee had no evidence. I said

we have evidence of his apparent capacity to attend to his duties.

HON. MR. MILLER—The evidence before the hon. gentleman has proved very deceptive on occasion after occasion. That is all the length I desire to go on that view of the case; but we have had the evidence of a medical man of high standing, a member of this House and of the committee, Dr. Paquet, that the messenger Davis is physically unable to discharge his duties. I venture to say that all who know Dr. Paquet will feel satisfied that he would not make such a statement before the committee, as a professional man, unless he had good reasons for doing so. There is another question in connection with this subject that I wish to allude to. The Chief Messenger, who is not harsh, and who is known as a kind-hearted man, has recommended, for what I consider good cause, the superannuation of this messenger. If against that recommendation, and against the recommendation of the large committee of this House, Davis is kept on now, it will be a triumph for him over the Chief Messenger and over the committee. I do not wish the House or the Chief Messenger to be placed in a humiliating position in connection with so trivial a matter. We have regulated our staff on the assumption that this young man should be superannuated, and it would disturb the whole arrangement which we have made, and which has been going on during the Session, if we now refuse to adopt this report. Under all the circumstances, I think the House should hesitate before rejecting a report of a committee such as the Contingent Committee on a question of this kind, and for various reasons: first, because it would be for no good cause; secondly, because the conduct of the young man has not been such as it should be, though we are willing to superannuate him when it is shown from the testimony of a medical man that he was unable from physical incapacity to do his work. We were willing to take the kindest view of the matter on that evidence rather than dismiss him for a cause which long ago perhaps rendered him liable to dismissal. As for taking him on again on probation, I don't want to refer to that matter. It has been done before. I think the wisest course is to adopt the report of the committee.

The motion was agreed to.