

work so laborious and at the same time requiring so much skill. In regard to the other recommendation I am not so fitted to speak, because I do not know the circumstances; but, so far as I have had them explained to me, I think that the recommendation is one also that the House should be ready to adopt.

Mr. CHARLTON. As a member of the Debates Committee, I rise to heartily endorse what has been said by the chairman of the committee and the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) especially with regard to the services of Mr. Boyce, and to support the motion that an addition be made to his salary. I believe that even then he will be an underpaid servant. He is a most valuable officer, and has served the House in the capacity which he follows at a very low pay indeed. Mr. Boyce most richly deserves the increase of salary proposed to be given to him.

Mr. CASEY. If the hon. Minister will allow me, before closing the debate, I simply wish to add a few words to fully endorse all that has been said in regard to the value of this gentleman's services; and my endorsement leads me to the statement that even if this addition is made to the salaries of Mr. Brewer and Mr. Boyce (with whom I am best acquainted), they will still remain rather underpaid than fully paid for the great services they render. They are both competent officers, and discharge their important functions in a manner which has given great satisfaction to the House since they have been appointed—and I have known them both since they were appointed. I have great pleasure in endorsing even this moderate measure of justice to these gentlemen.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am sorry the chairman had this report moved to-day, as we did not expect it to come up. I do not say he is wrong in doing so, but we did not expect it, as it is not mentioned in the Order Paper, and we had no time to consider it. I would ask, therefore, that the hon. gentleman postpone it to another day, so that the Government may have a chance of looking over the matter. Besides that, I must call the attention of my hon. friend the chairman, and the other members who have followed him in supporting the report, to the fact that this mode of increasing the salaries of officers of the House is hardly a proper one, and I do not think it will meet with the approval of the House. The officers of the House are put under the control of the Clerk, with the Speaker over them all; and the Committee on Internal Economy is appointed also, according to law, by the Governor in Council, every year. The Commission consists of members of the House, with the Speaker as chairman, and their duty is to look over appointments and have vacancies filled. Some three years ago that committee made a report to the House and classified the officers, and determined their salaries, which were acknowledged by the House as proper. Now, this committee can enquire if those officers are deserving officers, and if their pay is too small. If, by a report to the House of Commons, a committee can obtain this increase in salaries, will they not by that means do an injustice towards other officers who may be as deserving, but who will not have a chance of having their case brought before the attention of such a vigilant committee as the committee of which my hon. friend is chairman? I see that one of the officers, whose salary is recommended to be increased, is Mr. Hartney. I think Mr. Hartney is one of the clerks of the Railway Committee, and of the Banking and Commerce Committee as well. He was appointed the other day by the Railway Committee examiner of all the Bills that are presented, in order to see that those Bills are exactly in accordance with the Rules adopted by Parliament. This is extra work, and so that officer, finding that he can have an increase here, may come to the other committee and ask for another increase. We may have from the other com-

Mr. DAVIN.

mittee a report in that direction. Those officers would then be increasing their salaries without any reference being paid to the Clerk of the House or to the Speaker. I certainly think that the best mode, in a case of this kind, would be that a recommendation on the part of the committee might be referred to the Commission on the Internal Economy of the House, of which the Speaker is the head. Then the matter would be according to the Rules, and more just to other officers of the House of Commons. If the hon. gentleman does not object, I will move the adjournment of the debate, so that we may have time to consider the matter, unless he wishes to withdraw the motion.

Mr. DESJARDINS. I thought it had been understood that the report would come up for the concurrence of the House as soon as the other discussions had been finished. Last week I moved the adoption of the report, and the hon. the Minister asked me to postpone it until after the debate that was going on would be terminated. The matter has already been called to his attention, and I understood that he would be ready to-day to consider the report. I have no interest whatever to press the adoption of the report before the House of Commons is ready to consider it. In the meantime I might observe this: that the committee is making this recommendation now in the way that they have always made such recommendations, and according to the practice that has been always followed. For my part, I am ready to accept the recommendation made by the Minister of Public Works, that it be referred to the Commission on Internal Economy or to the Speaker, as it can be done in such a manner that no injustice will be done to any other officer of the House. We are just following the practice now which has been followed since the creation of the Official Debates.

Mr. LAURIER. There is no doubt whatever that the principle of the contention of the Minister of Public Works is right, but there is no doubt also that the officers connected with the Debates of this House have always been treated in a different category from other officers. This was contended for some few days ago by this side of the House, and my hon. friend, the chairman of the committee, did not support the views we took then. However, it is better late than never, and I am very glad to see that my hon. friend has resumed his privileges as chairman. For my part, I am ready to support him in the position he takes to-day. I would not support such a report with regard to any other officers than the officers of the Debates; but I come back to the position I laid down a moment ago, and also a few days ago, that the officers connected with the Debates are a special class, and have always been treated as such since the commencement of the Debates, and this report is only one of a long line of similar reports which from time to time have been adopted by this House.

Mr. SCRIVER. As a member of the committee, I desire to repeat substantially what my hon. leader has just been saying, that the committee have always looked on the persons connected with the Debates as in a somewhat different position from the other officers of the House, and what we have done in this instance is only in the line of what we have been doing in the past. Indeed, the present recommendations are of very much less importance than many that we have made before, especially that relating to the permanent reporters, in which we recommended not only that their salaries should be increased, but that they should be employed permanently, and that was accepted by the House as a matter of course.

Mr. CHARLTON. I may also say that some three or four years ago the committee recommended to the House that the salaries of the reporters should be raised, and that report was adopted by the House. In fact, in every instance in which any change has been made in the emoluments received by any person connected with the *Hansard*