

record. I think it is highly objectionable that we should be discussing what the Housekeeper said and what other employés said. It is very improper and undignified. If the recommendation is not approved of, it is much better to refer the paragraph back to the committee.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I owe it to myself and the House as a member of that committee to make this explanation, that I took strong grounds against this man Davis being superannuated at the early age of 35, and I asked the reasons why the recommendation was made. I will not mention to the House what information I received, but I may simply state that I took strong grounds against the recommendation. I thought the committee were acting wrongly in asking the Senate of the country to establish such a precedent. I hold the same view yet. I am more than surprised at my hon. friend from Alberton, when he insists that this House should accept the report of the Contingent Committee without a thorough investigation. I remember, and others will remember in this House, that only two or three years ago, when the hon. gentleman himself was chairman of the Contingent Committee, and that committee, by a majority of three to one, recommended granting gratuities on the Jubilee year to certain officers in connection with the Senate, he disapproved of the recommendation. The hon. gentleman from Richmond, who, I am sorry to see, is not in his seat to-day, moved that that portion of the report be expunged or referred back to the committee for reconsideration. The motion was agreed to and the report was expunged. In view of that fact, I am rather surprised to hear my hon. friend lay down the doctrine which he has stated to-day.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I did not establish such a precedent; it was the hon. member from Richmond.

HON. MR. MCINNES—If I am wrong I accept the explanation; but my recollection of the incident is, that when it came to a vote the hon. gentleman from Alberton supported the amendment. However, I am not going into a discussion on this point. I can only say that if we adopt this recommendation we will be doing something which we will regret in the future.

HON. MR. POWER—The better way would be for some gentleman who objects to this paragraph of the report to move that paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 be referred back to the committee.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—In order to justify myself I may say I have been approached by a dozen members asking me to move that the report be rejected. I refused to do so. I said I had done my duty in the committee room and I would take no further part in the matter. I would not have referred to it now if it had not been brought up by the hon. member from Halifax.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I may explain, in reply to my hon. friend from British Columbia, that in the case to which he referred a few moments ago I was chairman of the Contingent Accounts Committee and introduced the report. Would my hon. friend believe that I would have voted against my own report? The thing is absurd.

HON. MR. MCINNES—My recollection is that the hon. member made an explanation in which he demurred to the report.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—The hon. gentleman is astray; I would not oppose my own report.

HON. MR. MCINNES—On referring to the minutes I find that I was perfectly correct in my statement. My hon. friend from Alberton not only spoke against the report when he presented it to the House, but I find his name here among those who voted against it.

HON. MR. POIRIER—If what I hear about Davis is true, he ought not to be continued in his present position. However, what I wish to bring to the notice of the House is, that the First Clerk of English Journals, who died recently—Mr. Peter Miller—was appointed at confederation as coming from New Brunswick. While I do not believe in making it a strict rule that every vacancy should be filled by the appointment of a successor from the same Province, the rule has been followed to a certain extent, and I am sorry that the members of the committee who come from New Brunswick did not advocate the claim of their own Province.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—They did.