

ment that has governed the Striking Committee in making up their report. If it does not meet the approval of this House, it is easy to depart from it. I can say, on behalf of the Conservative members of that committee, that no partisan spirit animates them.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I brought this matter up—

Hon MEMBERS—Spoke! spoke!

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Then I move the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman cannot himself move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of speaking.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—If the hon. leader of the opposition will not allow me to make an explanation which will not occupy three minutes—

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I choose to adhere to the rules of the House as the hon. gentleman did yesterday. He has no right to complain.

The motion was agreed to.

#### THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved that the following gentlemen compose the Committee on Standing Orders :

The Hon. Messrs. Carling, Sir J., K.C.M.G., Clemow, Gillmor, Macdonald (P.E.I.), Macdonald (Victoria), McKay (Truro), Prowse, Yeo, Young.  
—9.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—In bringing up this matter I thought that I was perfectly within my rights. I do not think any one in this honourable body will doubt that. I can quite understand that if all the members of this House were free from party bias, as the hon. leader of the opposition and myself are, everything would be done fairly. With regard to the criticisms on the remarks I have made by the several gentlemen who have spoken, I have never understood that we should have a percentage of representatives on committees by provinces, as set forth by the hon. Secretary of State, because if a province is small and has but one senator, it would practically have no representation at all. I understand that senators are appointed for the purpose of giving re-

presentation to every portion of the Dominion. The hon. leader of the opposition says that I have probably brought this matter up because I wish for an important position on some of those committees, he is entirely mistaken. I wish to have a fair share in the proceedings of this House while I am a member of it, but, I have no desire to have any greater share of it, nor do I claim to possess any larger knowledge of the subjects coming before those committees, than other members. The hon. gentleman says that the western air has imbued me with a partisan spirit; I do come from a province that, in my opinion and in the opinion of a great many people in that province, has suffered at the hands of the Senate of Canada, and for that reason I feel warmly on the subject. When a majority of the people's representatives in parliament approved of certain legislation and sent it to this Chamber, that legislation was defeated by a body not responsible to the electorate of Canada. For that reason, along with others, I believe that the minority in this House, who represent the views of the majority of the electors in Canada, ought to have at least fair representation. The hon. gentleman from Calgary says that, in striking those committees, no attention is paid to the political views of any member. It has been said by others that there is no politics in those committees. I happen to know, from my own personal knowledge, that two or three Bills were thrown out in the Railway Committee here as a result of a straight canvass on party lines. In one case I heard the canvass made on this ground—that if the Bill were thrown out it would defeat the member in the House of Commons who had introduced it there. The Bill was defeated and that member was defeated; the threat was right that time. No argument can be used in this House to show that party influence does not affect the decisions of committees. The hon. gentleman said that a few years ago, when the Liberals were weakest here, it would be found that they were on almost every committee of this House. That is what I said at the outset; they must necessarily be there to have representation at all. I was a member of a government and a party in Manitoba where the opposition had only some seven members, and every one of those seven members was on almost every committee in