

extraordinary Committee. A few years ago they had appointed an additional messenger as Sessional messenger in that Department, and this report was adopted in precisely the same form as he had moved the adoption of this report. This was merely the exercise of the same privilege on a somewhat more extended scale, for the allowance in this case was \$300, while in the other case it was \$200.

MR. MACKENZIE said that this was not a Committee of this House at all. He believed that the same motion would be made in the Senate.

MR. ROSS: Yes.

MR. MACKENZIE said: Imagine the Senate adopting a report imposing duties on this House. It would never do, and it would be quite irregular.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said it was quite irregular. The Speaker and the Committee on Internal Economy were responsible for all these arrangements, and they should not be relieved of this responsibility in any way. If a similar transaction took place last year, that was irregular as well.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not the slightest recollection of what was done on a former occasion. The report, or the purport of it, and the effect of the resolution, I think, entirely escaped my notice or I would have objected to it at the time. I would have objected to this if the Premier had not raised the objection. I think that Committees, in these cases, should confine themselves to recommendation.

MR. HOLTON said that he doubted whether it was competent for these Committees to even make recommendations. The law of Parliament was quite clear that Committees, whether Standing or Special, should only report on subjects referred to them by the House. This was the plain law.

MR. BOWELL said that the position taken by the Premier, the right hon. member for Kingston, and the hon. member for Chateauguay, might be quite correct; but the practice, so far as the Printing Committee was concerned, had been, for the last ten years, that which had been pursued on the

present occasion. He remembered distinctly that when the Premier was the Chairman of the Printing Committee—

MR. MACKENZIE: That was before the Committee was established.

MR. BOWELL said he thought not. He recommended to the House an increase of salary to the Clerk, and this was, he might also remark, defeated. He knew that, a year or two ago, a recommendation was also made to increase the salary of Mr. Boterell, the Distribution Clerk, and an additional assistant was given this official by this Committee. The report was made to the House—the recommendation was similar to this one—and was approved, whether it was approved by the Senate or not, he was not prepared to say. If the Committee had overstepped its duty on this occasion, certainly this was not the first time. This was only pursuing the practice which had been in vogue for a number of years past.

MR. BLAKE said he was glad, if this practice had been pursued for a number of years past, that it was now stopped. He had great objection to even recommendations from these Committees. It was quite right to communicate such matters in an informal manner having special sources of information, to those responsible for the internal economy of the House; but nothing could be more calculated to withdraw an efficient sense of responsibility, and an efficient control from the three or four persons entrusted with this duty, than to have these recommendations made by a Committee which was not responsible for the economy of the House; and if a Committee of the House concurred in recommending an increase, it would be made and nobody would be responsible. He conceived that this was contrary to law, certainly it was so unless these officials stood upon a different footing, and were appointed in a different way to other officials of the House. He had never before heard of this being done.

MR. TUPPER said that no doubt an informal recommendation through this Committee would receive all desirable attention; and this would avoid the creation of an irresponsible body.

MR. ROSS.