

may say or think what he likes; I do not say much, but I say these entries in the Minutes, "Hon. Joseph Bolduc, Speaker," are not true.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Yes.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—You may call him Speaker pro-tem or whatever you like. I maintain, as a constitutional question, according to the report made by the Clerk of the House the other day, that, after the meeting at which he was called on to preside was over, he was no more Speaker than I was. That is my contention; it is a serious one. If the senator for De Lorimier contradicts me I am sorry. I deny him the right to stand up in the way he did, as he always does pretending to lead this House, which I deny his right to do. As a constitutional question, I maintain that when the Clerk of the House reported that the Speaker was unavoidably absent and the Hon. Mr. Bolduc was appointed by the House to act as Speaker, he was in the Chair rightly so far; but I maintain that as soon as that sitting was over he had no more right to be called Speaker, or to be Speaker than I had, unless on a new report by the Clerk of the House, he be again called upon to preside. We should not go through this childish business of sending abroad the statement that Mr. Bolduc is Speaker when he is not. As a member of this House I protest against that; we cannot have two Speakers in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. TESSIER—May I ask the hon. leader of the House if it is true that Hon. Mr. Landry has resigned as Speaker?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I have no knowledge that he has.

Hon. Mr. TESSIER—May I ask him if it is possible to have two Speakers?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—Let that go down.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Put that on record.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I do not suppose that the two hon. gentlemen who have just spoken know any more about ex-Speaker Landry than the House does, and the senators in this House are not supposed to know whether Mr. Landry is sick or not.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I would point out that the Government has absolutely nothing to do with the procedure of this House. We address the leader of the Government as if

he were responsible for the situation. He is no more responsible for the situation that exists to-day in the Senate than any other member of the Chamber. It is not a Government question; it is a question for the Senate, on its own basis of right and privilege, to act, not the Government. The only time that the Government can act is when the House declare that there is no Speaker, or that there is a Speaker who declines to act; then will be the time for the Government to take action. If the Speaker declines to act, it is up to the Government to replace him. We should not be appealing to the leader of the Government in this matter; he has absolutely nothing to do with it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The question has been put as to the right of the Speaker who was appointed to continue to sit as such from sitting to sitting without being re-nominated or re-elected to the position. Now the Act, chapter 12 of the Revised Statutes, says:

Whenever the Senate is informed by the Clerk at the table of the unavoidable absence of the Speaker, the Senate may choose any Senator to preside as a Speaker during such absence, and such Senator should thereupon have and execute all the powers, privileges and duties of Speaker until the Speaker himself resumes the Chair, or another Speaker is appointed by the Governor General.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—That's it; another Speaker.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—(Continuing reading):

Every Act done by any Senator acting as aforesaid should have the same effect and validity as if the Act had been done by the Speaker himself.

It seems to me that those terms are clear enough to satisfy my hon. friend from Grandville. I apologize to him for showing some irritation when he rose to speak about this matter, because I confess, from what has appeared in the press in the last three or four days, I have felt aggrieved at incidents which have occurred in the Senate on this question.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Who is responsible?

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I cited that clause the other day, so that there is nothing new in it for myself. What I claim is that, under this law, the Speaker is not unavoidably away. We all know that; the House knows that; the present occupant of the Chair knows it, for he was in his room the other day.