

June 13, 1872

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the motion was out of order, as no notice had been given.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER hoped the objection would not be persisted in.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said gentlemen opposite had the whole session in which to bring this matter up: why did they not do it earlier? If the Government had chosen to join with members who were anxious to have proper official reports of the debates taken, it could have been done.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the round-robin was not placed in his hands till the present time. It was almost a command to the House to purchase these reports.

Mr. ROSS (Dundas) said that he and several others who had signed with him had signed it under a misapprehension. He had understood that the reports had been published under an implied promise that they would be purchased by the House.

After some discussion, in which several members took part, members of the Government again urging Hon. Mr. Mackenzie to withdraw his objection,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he was perfectly aware the Government could force the matter through if they chose. He objected because he was satisfied the proposal could not be carried in a full House; at least four members had told him they had signed the round-robin under a misapprehension, and notice would have to be given.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD hoped that the hon. gentleman would not press his objection, but if he did, he would leave the motion as a notice for tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he was not quite sure that the motion could be entertained even tomorrow; that the House was bound by any round-robin signed by members, was a doctrine he could not admit. If the Speaker ruled that notice for tomorrow was sufficient he would vote against the proposition if present. The very fact that this motion was brought up in this way, first with closed doors when reporters were not present, and just on the eve of prorogation, indicated that the feeling of the House was against it. He had stated his objections, he had pointed out the unwarrantable mode of doing this thing; but knowing that it was perfectly useless to prevent this motion passing, as the Government were determined to press it, he would not insist upon the point of order, but would content himself with expressing his opinion and vote against the proposition.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North) saw no antagonism between this and the proposition which had been negatived, which was to have an official report at very considerable expense. It was most desirable that these reports should be obtained for reference, as now there is the necessity of preserving the files of the daily papers, which was a course very inconvenient and almost

impossible. He thought the expense of obtaining these two volumes was not to be compared with the benefit that would arise. He found by referring to the previous notes that it was the silent members who always voted down such propositions. Now, however valuable their services, it was very unfair that valuable discussions and decisions should not be preserved in prominent form.

Mr. HARRISON agreed in this view. The debate was continued at some length, when in the absence of Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald,

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER moved that it be an instruction to the Commissioners of Internal Economy to make arrangements for 600 copies of the reports of Parliamentary proceedings, known as the Canadian Hansard, for the years 1870 and 1871 for the use of members, the cost to be charged to contingencies.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE objected that the motion was out of order. No notice had been given.

After considerable discussion,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE withdrew his objection, as notice of motion was given, and so the Government could carry it if they liked.

The House then divided on the motion, which was carried: — Yeas, 41; Nays, 5.

(Division No. 52)

YEAS

Members

Abbott	Brousseau
Campbell	Carter
Cartier (Sir George-É.)	Cayley
Daoust	De Cosmos
Ferguson	Gaucher
Grant	Gray
Grover	Harrison
Hincks (Sir Francis)	Keeler
Langevin	Langlois
Lawson	Macdonald (Sir John A.)
McDonald (Lunenburg)	McDonald (Middlesex West)
Masson (Soulanges)	McDougall (Lanark North)
McKeagney	Morris
Morrison (Niagara)	O'Connor
Perry	Pope
Robitaille	Ross (Dundas)
Ryan (King's, N. B.)	Schultz
Shanly	Smith (Selkirk)
Street	Tilley
Tourangeau	Tupper
Wright (Ottawa County)—41	

NAYS

Members

Ault	Bourassa
Cartwright	Delorme (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Mackenzie—5	