

the men who are here constantly, and actively interested in the legislation before the committees, should be selected to take part in the deliberations of those committees. The hon. leader of the opposition has just stated that I probably would like to be on a committee. There is one, and I wished to be on it last session, but being a new member I took the position that was assigned to me. I refer to the Railway Committee. The hon. gentleman alongside of me (Mr. Casgrain) would also like to serve on that committee. We think we know something about railways and the legislation which comes before that committee. As a western man I am interested in the railway legislation before this House, because most of it affects our North-west. For that reason I have raised the objection to the adoption of this report to-day. With all due respect to the old members of the committees, I submit to the House that men who are here constantly, and in a position to attend actively to the duties of the position should be placed on those committees. It is no disrespect to old members to leave them off those committees and place them on others where their presence would not be of so much importance. That is why I raised my objection. I have given my reasons, and I think they will commend themselves to the majority of the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The policy adopted by the committee appointed by this House to name the various standing committees, has been the one that has been followed since the Senate was inaugurated. I have been in the Senate twenty-seven years, on both sides of the House, and the practice has been to make the changes as new members came in, and as vacancies arose from time to time. I quite appreciate the reason urged by the hon. gentleman in opposition to that view, but, as it is a new departure, it would have to be started with the full knowledge of the intention to change the basis of the organization of committees. The practice may not be a good one, but it has at least the advantage of time on its side, and a concurrence from year to year. I do not think I have heard the report of the Committee on Selection challenged on more than one or two occasions in a long term. It is a delicate and difficult task to

select the members of the committees, because, naturally, there are some committees that a majority of the members wish to be on, and it is quite impossible, with the limitations we have, to so arrange the committees as to meet the views of every hon. gentleman. We desire to do so as far as is practicable. I will now read the changes that have been made. On the Joint Committee on the Library and on other committees the ex-Speaker has been substituted for the present Speaker. Wherever the present Speaker was on a committee the ex-Speaker is put on in his place.

Mr. MacInnes, of Hamilton, is replaced by Mr. Wood, of Hamilton. On the Joint Committee on Printing, there were three vacancies. Mr. Ellis, of St. John, who is a practical newspaper man and printer, takes the place of the late Mr. McKindsey, of Halton; Mr. McKay, of Alma, takes the place of Senator Ogilvie, who resigned, and the ex-Speaker takes the place of the present Speaker. On the Standing Orders Committee, Mr. Shehyn takes the place of Mr. McDonald, of Cape Breton. On the Committee on Banking and Commerce, Mr. McKay, of Alma, takes the place of Senator Burpee, Mr. McDonald, of Cape Breton, takes the place of Mr. Fulford, who, it is reported, will not be here for, at all events, the greater part of the session. In several instances where we knew that senators would be absent for at least the greater part of the session, we decided that if, on their return, they desired to do so, they could take the places of the gentlemen we have named. Senator Loughheed, takes the place of the late Mr. Lewin, and Mr. McCallum, the place of the late Mr. MacInnes. Mr. Wood, of Hamilton, takes the place of the late Sir Frank Smith. Mr. Speaker had replaced Mr. Lewin temporarily last session. On the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours, Mr. Wood, of Hamilton, takes the place of Mr. Almon, until the latter return to the Chamber; Senator Sullivan, takes the place of the late Senator MacInnes, by arrangement, Senator Bolduc, takes the place of Senator Masson, and, I presume, if Mr. Masson, should return to the Chamber, his name will be substituted for that of Mr. Bolduc; Mr. Prowse, takes the place of the late Senator McKindsey. Senator MacKay, of Alma, takes the place of Senator Ross, who is absent, but, if the