

the rights and privileges of members of this House. I consider it highly improper that any single member of a committee of this House should take it upon himself to ask a reporter to hold back a report of the speeches of members in this House. We are allowed a certain control over our own speeches, to amend or correct them, but it would be a greater liberty to withhold the speech of any member, and it is something that I believe is unprecedented. The hon. chairman of the committee tried to justify the withholding the report on the ground that the report of the Committee on Contingencies was not complete yet. That has nothing to do with the question. The question is, whether the committee should have a right to take such action upon a debate of this House, without any reference to it by the House. I contend they have not, and I am very much surprised that gentlemen of parliamentary experience should not have kept within the scope of their authority. It is a dangerous principle, which this House will not tolerate for a moment. Hon. gentlemen who have been in Parliament for long years, and who are familiar with the procedure and the powers of committees should have hesitated before declaring that the speeches of members of this House should be eliminated from the final report. It is a monstrous thing that gentlemen who have struggled with May, Todd and Bourinot for years, and who have no doubt familiarized themselves with every authority on the subject of the rights and privileges of the House, and the powers of the committees, should raise a question of this kind. If they would only look at the resolution under which the Debates Committee was appointed, they would find its scope laid down very clearly. Certain gentlemen were appointed a committee to enquire into the best means to be adopted to obtain correct reports of the debates and proceedings of the Senate, and for the publication of the same, not to eliminate certain portions of the debates, or say what should be published, but to provide for the publication of the debates.

HON. MR. DICKEY—And report their views to the House.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—And to report their views to the House on this subject. I contend that they have gone

entirely beyond the scope of their authority, and the best thing would be to withdraw the report of the committee altogether. This House, I think, ought to give some definite expression of opinion on that subject. I have here, by the courtesy of the chairman, the speeches proposed to be eliminated. There is not a single harsh word in that report, nothing which should be cancelled, no charge against anybody, and there are reports in our books of debates ten times more bitter and objectionable than the one in question. This debate simply refers to a certain portion of the report of the Contingencies Committee. The hon. gentleman from St. John (Mr. Dever) is the only member of the House who made a slight insinuation that the recommendation of the Contingencies Committee was made for the benefit of a certain person. That does not tax or accuse anybody of doing anything wrong. I have prepared a resolution here which I hope will meet with the approval of hon. gentlemen. It is as follows:—

RESOLVED,—That the functions and authority of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the best means to be adopted to obtain correct report of the debates and proceedings in the Senate, and for the publication of the same are defined and limited by the resolution of the Senate under which it was appointed, in the following words, viz.:—

“To inquire into the best means to be adopted to obtain correct report of the debates and proceedings in the Senate, and for the publication of the same, and to report from time to time their views to the House.”

That is no part of the duty of that committee, nor is it within the scope of its authority—without special reference by the House—to take into consideration, or report to the House whether any of the debates in the House shall be printed in the official *Debates* of the Senate, or shall be totally or partially eliminated from the same.

That the report of the committee be not now adopted, but that it be referred back, with an instruction to the committee to have the debate alluded to printed in official report of the debates in the Senate.

HON. MR. MILLER—Do you move that as an amendment?

HON. MR. MACDONALD—Yes.

HON. MR. MILLER—You cannot amend the report of the committee. It is out of order.

HON. MR. POWER—Particularly as the adoption of the report has not been moved.

HON. MR. MILLER—Even though it had been, the amendment would be out of order. For the purpose of keeping our