

The Joint Committee on Printing has been presided over alternately year after year by two members from Ontario. When the chairmanship was in this House the Hon. Senator from Quinté was generally the chairman, and when it was in the House of Commons, Dr. Bergin, from Cornwall, was chairman. There has been no change in that for a great many years. I was on that committee for twenty-five years and I never heard this provincial question being even mooted. I have the following note from the law clerk, and I think it is only justice to him that I should read it in order that the House may understand that he did not do anything with the intention of exceeding his duties :

Please say my watch was set by the tower clock. I did so when coming in and as a matter of fact my watch was $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes slow by that clock, and I called the Committee to order at 10.45 precisely.

So that by his own statement he called the meeting a minute and a half too late.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—The hon. leader of the government has endeavoured to leave the impression on the House that I accused him of a desire to treat unfairly or improperly members of the House in his action on this committee. In referring to the two previous leaders of the Senate in connection with the Conservative party, I referred to their practice without any intention of casting a reflection upon him more than would arise from an inadvertency. But the result of an inadvertency is just the same as if the act were intentional. The hon. gentleman has alluded to the fact that I have given this matter a provincial aspect. In reply to that I will only say my record in this House will show that no member has been less sectional or been less given to sectional prejudices than I have been since I have had the honour to occupy a seat in the Senate, and no member has been more ready to concede to portions of the Dominion outside of his own district their just rights than I have been, but what I contend is that it is wise and proper to keep certain conditions and facts in view in regulating the business of this House. You cannot ignore them, but I think it is altogether out of the question for the party that does ignore them and get all the advantage to be gained by ignoring them, to turn round and say that we should not think of these things at all. If the

provinces which are ignored should say so, it would have some force, but it has no force in the mouth of a gentleman representing a province which gets the advantage of all the want of fair play exercised in the appointment of chairman of committees for the present session. I do not want to prolong this discussion, but I am very glad that I raised it, and if it will have no good effect at the present time, I hope it will not be forgotten in the future.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—My name has been mentioned by the hon. gentleman from Richmond in this matter, and I am thankful to him for the manner in which he brought it up. I certainly think that the meeting was called some minutes before the time designated in the notice. A messenger came and told me that a quorum was wanted, and that I should come in. I went in, thinking I was ahead of time some five minutes, though I did not look at my watch. I always deem it an honour to preside over any committee. I have acted temporarily as chairman of the Railway Committee in the absence of the regular chairman, and had my name been mentioned on this occasion to fill the position I should have hesitated whether to accept the honour or not, but I was never consulted in the matter, nor did anyone speak to me about it. I consider, myself, that Mr. Vidal having been attentive to his duties as a member of the committee—as I have been myself, for I have never failed in my duties as a member of the House—that the appointment was appropriate. I have been here twenty-four years and have never failed to do my duty, though at times it might be unpleasant to some members and place me in opposition to a majority of the committee, especially on the Divorce Committee. I understand that thoroughly. Last year I stood alone in my independent judgment of matters, and the result was that my position was confirmed by this House and by the other House. The result was what generally happens when a man asserts his conscientious convictions and follows them up by his acts. That has been my course in this House and outside of it, in my private relations as well as in politics—I have never allowed myself to be driven into a position that my opinions did not justify. I have never asked for or received any favours of the government; neither do I impose or volunteer advice. I simply stand