

Senate—that is the Nicholson case—with a view of obviating the danger of any partiality on the part of the committee it was appointed by his Honor the Speaker. That I think was the case in the Nicholson matter.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Not appointed by him, but merely referred to him, but I think in the present case the Speaker should be relieved from such a duty.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I thought the understanding of the House was that the gentleman in charge of the Bill should confer with the Speaker, but on mentioning the matter to His Honor with reference to another Bill he informed me that he thought not—that the understanding of the House was that the gentleman in charge of the Bill should confer with the Minister of Justice, and therefore my hon. friend came to me and we settled upon this committee.

HON. MR. POWER—I merely rose to remark that my hon. colleague was justified in what he said.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I hope my hon. friend from New Brunswick will not persist in his objection to serve on the committee. Although he has attained the age which he mentions, yet he is young in vigor, and there are so many of these cases coming before the House that I am afraid he and I and other old men will have to serve. I hope my hon. friend will consent to act.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—With respect to the reference which has been made to a member having charge of a Bill of this kind nominating a committee, I recollect distinctly that there was a discussion about it on a former occasion, and I suggested, to overcome an objection made by the hon. member from Halifax, that the Speaker was the proper person who should nominate the committee, but of course the Minister of Justice is quite competent to perform the duty.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I should be happy to give it up.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—I made the suggestion myself in consequence of an

objection which had been made by some parties that the member in charge of the Bill should not have the selection of the Committee.

THE SPEAKER—I am sorry that my recollection of the circumstances attending the occasion to which the hon. gentlemen have alluded is not in harmony with that of the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat. I think I myself was the member who brought the subject to the notice of the House some years ago and after some considerable discussion, if my memory serves me right, it was the unanimous wish of the Senate that the leader of the House, who happens to be the Minister of Justice, should advise with the mover for the committee, and that the committee should have his approbation; that is my recollection. Under any circumstances the House would hardly expect me, knowing my views on the question, to nominate a committee; but apart from that my recollection is very distinct and I think it was the decision of the House that the Minister of Justice should nominate the committee and watch the proceedings all through.

HON. MR. DICKEY—It must be admitted that there could be no fairer mode of choosing a committee than that which has been adopted in this case, and had the junior member for Halifax been aware of the facts he would have been, probably, content with merely suggesting that in future cases nomination should not take place by the member having charge of the Bill. It was a fair position for him to assume, and in fact he expressly stated that he took no exception to the gentlemen who were appointed in this instance. Therefore there is really nothing to prevent the House from acceding to the motion.

HON. MR. ALMON—If I had known that the Minister of Justice had been consulted in this case I would not have raised the objection: but suppose we had not the good fortune to have the Minister of Justice in this House what would be done?

HON. MR. READ—The leader of the House could nominate the committee.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—We could make some other provision. There