

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suggest that the item be passed, and the remaining discussion be postponed until Concurrence, and with that understanding no more items will be proceeded with this evening.

Resolutions to be reported; Committee to sit again.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock, a.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 26th March, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

RECEPTION OF REPORTS ON PRIVATE BILLS.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved that, as the time for the reception of reports from Committees on Private Bills will expire to-morrow, the same be extended until Tuesday, the 1st April next, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals, and Telegraph Lines.

Motion agreed to.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell), in moving the adoption of the Third Report (page 1,022) of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the *Debates* of the present Session, said: This report simply recommends the payment to Mr. Mathewson, who is one of the type-writers in the reporting office, of the sum of \$130 for the Session for the work of taking care of the caligraphs. He is a man of very great experience, of some mechanical genius, and he has been employed in that work, and I believe has saved much more than this amount. The report also recommends the obtainment of another caligraph, in case of any accident to any of them, as there is now the exact number which is required for the amanuenses.

Mr. BLAKE. Will the hon. gentleman state what is the prime cost of a caligraph?

Mr. WHITE. I really cannot state. I think it is something over \$100.

Mr. BLAKE. I thought it was something like \$70 or \$80, and, if so, it appears to me that we are paying for repairs the price of two caligraphs every year.

Mr. WHITE. \$100, I am told, is the price of the caligraphs; but they are a very delicate machine and liable to get out of order, and, consequently, somebody is needed on the spot who is able to repair them.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Might I ask the chairman of the Committee if I read the report aright, which recommends that a new arrangement be entered into with our reporting staff?

Mr. WHITE. That is another report.

Mr. O'BRIEN,

Mr. COURSOL. Do I understand that the translators are included in this report?

Mr. WHITE. This is not the report to which the hon. gentleman refers. I am going to move the second report in a moment.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. WHITE. I beg leave to move, seconded by Mr. Scriver, that the Fourth Report (page 1,022) of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Report of the *Debates* of the House for the present Session, be adopted. This report is of a somewhat more serious character. It recommends that the reporters be created permanent officers of the House, and that they get an annual salary of \$2,000. Now, I am well aware that when we commenced the *Hansard* we obtained the services of the reporters at \$1,000 a year—or, rather, for the Session—the understanding at that time being that the reporters would find employment during the recess of Parliament by which they would be enabled to supplement the \$1,000. It is due, however, to say that the leading members of the staff, those who were really the most valuable members of the staff, always protested from the first that that salary was not sufficient, and they accepted the position in order to establish on a permanent basis this system of official reporting, and to illustrate by their work that such a system could be made a success. Subsequently it was found that the services of those gentlemen could not at all be retained at that salary, even with the aid of such outside work as they could get during the recess, and the Committee recommended an arrangement by which a progressive scale would be adopted, that is to say, they were to receive \$100 extra, each Session, until the sum reached the maximum of \$1,500 a Session, the payment being for the Session. That arrangement was found, however, to be practically inoperative; because, for instance, when we obtained the services last year of Mr. Richardson, one of the reporters, a gentleman who has had a very large experience and whose skill as a stenographer, as well as his general information—which is really almost as important as mere stenographic skill—made him a very desirable reporter, in order to secure his services we had to give him the larger sum. I may say the work of reporting the debates here is really very much more difficult than the ordinary work of reporting for newspapers. A mere mechanical stenographer has very little chance of success; and I believe I am right in stating that even the \$1,500 has failed to secure applications from those who have had the largest experience as newspaper reporters and who would be most valuable at the table. Now I think the House will admit that if we are to have a system of official reporting at all, it is very desirable that the gentlemen who are engaged in that work should be of such skill, of such general intelligence, and of such general information and education, besides being good shorthand writers, as would enable us to have, at any rate, a reasonably correct report as the first report submitted to the House. Members of the House know that in the past, it has sometimes been a very serious matter with them, to find that, not the whole of the report, but certain takes—which is a technical term—were so confused and incorrect that really members were not represented as saying at all what they intended to say, and sometimes unfortunately an impression might be derived from the reports which was the opposite from what they intended to convey. Under these circumstances it becomes of the greatest consequence that the gentlemen who are engaged at these tables should be men of undoubted skill, and that we should pay them such a sum as would enable us always to secure the highest skill in the stenographic art. In the first place it was thought when a smaller salary was paid that these gentlemen would be able to obtain employment during recess; practical experience, however, has shown that there is very little