

NEW SENATOR.

Hon. William Benjamin Ross of Nova Scotia.

DELAYED RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—Last year I asked for a return, late in the session, which was not brought down before prorogation. I would ask the leader of the House when the return will be presented?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Might I suggest to hon. gentlemen the propriety of not expecting returns which they move for until a later date than they usually do. Almost invariably the practice of the House has been to expect the answers the following day. It has to pass through a certain amount of circumlocution before it reaches me, and it is utterly impossible to make the answers within a day or two after the questions are placed on the paper.

THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved:

That pursuant to Rule 77, the following senators: the Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., the Honourable Messieurs Gibson, Béique, Power, Watson, Casgrain, Ross (Moosejaw), Daniel, and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It fell to my lot on the opening day of the session to ask the hon. leader of the government in this House by whose authority and under whose direction he had undertaken to move for this Striking Committee. I put the question for several reasons. One of the reasons is that I consider this committee to be the most important that this hon. House can form. Although the functions of the committee are brief they are the most powerful and creative. This committee is given power to select from among the 86 members of this House those who shall serve on the different committees that prepare and do the work for the Senate. That is a difficult task and one that should be controlled and reported by the Senate, and I, as a humble member of this House, am not prepared to stand it

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

any longer. I have stood it for ten years, but I am not prepared to permit any one or two members, whether on the opposition or the government side, to dictate to me who shall appoint me a member of a committee without consulting me or my colleagues. Under the present circumstances the case is a delicate one. Here is the leader of the government in the Senate in an absolute minority dictating to the majority what they shall or shall not have. That is a condition of things that should not be tolerated. It is true that the hon. leader of the House represents the government here, but he is leader of the opposition in this House; he is not leader of the dominant party in this House by any means. When I asked him for the information last Thursday whether he had consulted the dominant party in this House as to the formation of this committee I got no direct answer. He simply asked to have the discussion postponed and I quite willingly consented. The proposition was fair at the time and under the circumstances.

I want the hon. leader of the House to understand that he cannot impose on this House a list of names without a general consultation. I have no objection to any hon. senator on the proposed list, but I desire that our wishes should be considered. I am perfectly frank in my views, perhaps too much so sometimes. The committee, which is probably the committee of the past thirty years, is too staid; the younger members of the Senate who have come here within the last ten years, want a change. They have been more or less diffident and did not dare to express their opinions in regard to the matter, but I took it upon myself to do so, if not on their behalf at least on my own behalf. We want new blood on all the committees. We do not want to accept the principle that because a man has been on a committee for twenty years that he should remain there. I know that I am speaking the sentiments of many hon. gentlemen in this House on this point. Most important committees are formed of hon. senators who never attend the meetings, and hon. gentlemen who are in daily attendance, willing to give their services, experience and knowledge