

striking the committees again, we shall undertake to give to the two great parties in the state—because there are two great parties, and they are represented in this House—fair representation. If a party should, in the process of time, become a small minority in the House, then it is most desirable that that minority should be fully represented on all the committees. You want to give to the party, even though it is in the minority, an opportunity of adequately expressing its opinions on all public questions in the committee as well as on the floor of the House, and that you do by seeing that the minority are fairly represented on every committee, but we cannot ignore the fact that the party at this moment in whose hands the executive government happens to be, is in the minority in this House, and it should not be in the public interest, apart from the question of fairness, to give to it on the committees of this House a smaller representation than it might be entitled to, because it is most desirable that the business of the country should be fairly carried on. I think, therefore, the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman from Monck (Mr. McCallum) is a good suggestion, that the report should be adopted, and there is a disposition on the part of the House, I think, to meet the suggestions made by the hon. senator from Marquette, and to see that fair representation is given to both parties on the committee. I have no doubt there are some men on committees that they do not care to be on, and there are others who are desirous of taking their place. That can be voluntarily arranged after the committees are struck, and we may from time to time amend the committees in this House in that way.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The tenor of the discussion has been of such a character as to indicate to members of this Chamber, who were not present at the sitting of the Striking Committee, that a spirit of partisanship operated in the minds of the majority of that committee in appointing a majority of Conservatives on the various committees.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—No, no.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend ironically says 'no, no.' Reflection has been

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cast on the majority of the members of the committee by the remarks of some hon. gentlemen. I might say, and I think I can with confidence, on the part of those who are upon the same side of politics as myself, that if my hon. friend opposite had come down to the committee with a proposition such as he has just enunciated, and with a list of names giving an entirely different representation than that shown in the report, the committee would have been prepared to give the fairest possible consideration to such a proposition. But there was no suggestion of a definite character made by gentlemen representing the Liberal side of politics that was not entertained by the committee at its sitting. I know it is not the etiquette of committees to disclose what may have taken place on the inside, but there has always been that disposition to entertain any proposal to grant fair-play and proper representation of any particular group in this Chamber by the Striking Committee. I would point out that this little discussion, and the acrimony that has resulted from it, has arisen from a misapprehension on the part of the hon. gentleman from Marquette. He seems to think that the same feeling is displayed here as in the House of Commons. When the Liberal party was at its lowest, the party, so far as representation on the committees was concerned, had more than it could claim on the basis of its numerical strength. If my hon. friend will look at the names on the committees during the ten years when the Liberal party had its smallest numbers here, he will find that the members of that party were represented in their entirety on the committees, and there has not been a disposition to adhere to political lines in striking the committees. There is a certain sentiment which must animate a committee of that character. We cannot, where members have been in the House for many years, and have been active members of certain committees, strike their names off heartlessly without giving some reason for doing so, and put in their places members recently appointed. That sentiment has run through the policy which has animated the Striking Committee in the past. It may not be in accordance with party spirit, or party zeal, or the ideas expressed by the hon. gentleman from Marquette, but that has been largely the senti-