

anticipated would be got rid of, absolutely increased. A large expense is involved in feeding Indians, the amount this year asked being \$287,000. I understand that very recently orders were given that the quantity of provisions dealt out on certain locations should be diminished, and that several Indians have died of starvation—in the neighbourhood of thirty—during the past few weeks.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No such report has been made.

Mr. MILLS. I have a statement in my desk as to where the Indians were located, and the number who died. It is very desirable that we should have information on this question.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will endeavour to answer fully, on Concurrence, all the points mentioned by the hon. gentleman, all of which are important.

Resolutions to be reported; Committee to sit again.

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

Motion agreed to; and (at 1:45 o'clock, a.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd April, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Mr. GIROUARD presented the First Report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, as follows:—

The Committee, to whom was referred the question, whether Sir Charles Tupper is now member for Cumberland, or whether he has vacated his seat, beg leave to report that Sir Charles Tupper has not vacated his seat, and is still the member for Cumberland.

The Committee, to whom was also referred the Bill (No. 111) respecting the Independence of Parliament Act, 1868, 41 Victoria, Chapter 5, beg leave to report the said Bill, with amendments.

All of which is respectfully submitted with the Minutes of Proceedings, and all the documents referring to the case, and in possession of the Committee.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell), in moving that the Fifth Report (page 1240) of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present Session, said: This report has relation to the French translation of the Debates about which there was some discussion a few days ago. The Committee, in presenting the report, had two objects in view. The first was to fairly remunerate the translators, but the chief object was to secure, if possible, a more rapid delivery of the French copy of the report. The practical difficulty in accomplishing that heretofore, has been that the translation had to be made from the revised proofs, and those revised proofs were hardly in the hands of the translators for a week, at any rate, after the revision of the speeches. The time then was so far gone that I am rather inclined to think that the printers looked upon the printing of French copy as a matter of less consequence than the printing of the English, and considerable delay occurred in this way. The proposal now made is that, if a speech, for instance, is delivered in the House at night, the next day the member receives a copy of his speech pasted on paper with a view to his making such correction as may be necessary in the speech. Two of these will be prepared in the *Hansard* room, one retained in that room and the other sent to the

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member. When that speech is returned to the *Hansard* room, the copy retained will be corrected exactly in accordance with the correction made by the member, and that corrected copy will go straight to the translators' room, and the translation will be made from that, so that we will have a translation from the corrected report without waiting for its being printed. Then we also propose in this report that the chief translator shall keep a daily record of the work done by the translators. So far as the reporters are concerned, as they have what are called ten minute takes, and one comes in after the other to the table, there is no difficulty in knowing that each reporter does his fair share of work; but there is no such check in the case of the translators, and it is important that the Committee should know who are doing good work, and who, if any, are not accomplishing what they ought to accomplish. It is therefore proposed to have this check. The chief translator is to keep a daily record, which is to be signed by him and by the translator himself, so that the Committee may know not only the quantity of work done, but may be able, if there be any defect in the work, to detect who is defective, and, if that cannot be remedied, some one else will have to take his place. The report further recommends that two gentlemen who were appointed this year, towards the middle of the Session, for the purpose of enabling the report to be got out, shall be appointed as additional translators permanently, and, in addition to that, there is one other translator recommended for appointment, making in all eight regular translators, in addition to the two gentlemen who are at the Table, the two French reporters, who are supposed to assist, but experience up to this time indicates that they will not more than count for one efficient translator. Now, looking at the object which the Committee have in view, and which it must be admitted is one of great importance, especially for the speedy delivery of the French report, I may say that, this Session, up to last Monday, the end of the month, we had 1,269 pages of *Hansard*. The daily edition, taking the average of the whole, averaged 25½ pages. We had 25½ pages for each day during that time, but, during the first 13 days of the Session, we had but 116 pages of *Hansard*, or but nine pages per day, and that is including one day, the day of the debate on the Address, upon which we had 25 pages. Then in the subsequent 38 days, we had 1,181 pages, or an average of 31 pages a day, taking the whole time; but included in that we had 18 days when there were 31 pages and upwards, nine days when there were 35 pages and upwards, two days when there were 40 pages, two when there were 42 pages, one when there were 46 pages, and one when there were 48 pages—that was the day when the longest debate of the Session took place. The general estimate is that three pages, or three to four, at any rate, is what may fairly be expected from a translator each day. If that be the case, then the number we have now, allowing three and a-half to four pages a day, ought to be able to give us the French translation so that it will be in the hands of the French members within three or four days at most of the time of the delivery of the speeches; and, in that way, that which has been a very serious grievance up to this time will, we hope, in future be removed, and the French members will be able to distribute their *Hansard* to their own constituents in their own language, within a reasonable time of the delivery of the speeches in Parliament. I beg to move the adoption of the report.

Mr. COURSOL. (Translation). Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that the Committee have taken a step in the right direction; they have acknowledged that the French translators ought to form part of the regular organization of the *Hansard*. It is just what we claimed the other day. However, I think that the Committee ought to go further; they