

THE CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS OF
THE SENATE.

The following is the report referred to above:—

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—I should like to know why Thos. Davis, a messenger, is superannuated? He is a young man, and seems to be quite fit to discharge his duties. I should like to have that part of the report suspended and referred back to the committee to enquire further into this matter. I should like to know if they had this man Davis before them, and why they have decided to superannuate him?

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I am not possessed of the facts which led the committee to recommend that this young man be superannuated. Some reasons should be given for such an unusual recommendation. It seems to me that it would be a bad precedent, unless a man has been for a long time in the public service and has reached an advanced age, to superannuate him. If Davis is not over age and not incapacitated from performing his duties I should like to know why he is to be superannuated. It is unjust to the young man himself to shove him out of the position he is holding, if it is merely to make place for some other person. I should think that the committee would not yield to pressure to recommend the superannuation of a comparatively young man, to make room for another person. Unless the chairman of the committee can justify this recommendation, I must oppose the report.

HON. MR. POWER—I think it would not be at all desirable that such a matter as this should be discussed in this Chamber. There were as many members present at the meeting of the committee as are present in the house now. The matter was discussed and the committee arrived almost unanimously at the conclusion to make the recommendation contained in the report. The hon. member from New Westminster did not concur in the recommendation to superannuate Davis, but my recollection is that he did concur in the proposition to dispense with his services. Satisfactory reasons were furnished to the committee why this man should not be continued in his present position, and I think it would be an

unfortunate precedent if, in a thin House, we were to undertake to discuss before the whole country the reasons why the committee have recommended that a certain course be taken in dealing with an inferior officer of the House. There is this objection to referring back the paragraph of the report containing the recommendation: the action which the committee took on several other applications would be influenced by the action taken in this particular case, and we should be obliged to refer back a large portion of the report. I have not the slightest interest in the matter, good, bad or indifferent, except that the right thing should be done, and I think that it would be a very unwise thing to refer this paragraph of the report back. There is no object in prosecuting the enquiry any further.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—My hon. friend has rather excited my curiosity. Does he tell us that when a report comes from a committee we must adopt it blindly without discussion? Is the House not to be the judge of all circumstances connected with the recommendation? When such a new departure is taken as the superannuation of a young man we should have a reason for it. We must know the ground on which this recommendation is made. There should be no hesitation on the part of the House in demanding all the information that is necessary to enable us to arrive at a correct judgment on the matter. It is a new departure, and I can only say, as my hon. friend beside me has said, that I can see but one reason for making such a recommendation—that there is a desire to give the position to somebody else.

HON. MR. POWER—Nothing of the sort.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—If that is not the reason, then we ought to know what is the real ground for making the recommendation. If this man has not performed his duty, if he is incapacitated in any way, if he has been an unfaithful servant, he should be dismissed and not superannuated. Until some explanation is given by the chairman of the committee, I shall be disposed to oppose this paragraph of the report.

HON. MR. DEVER—I have no interest in this matter, and did not hear it discussed.