

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—We have not yet voted on the question of whether this is a proper report or not. The matter has been explained very clearly. A sub-committee was appointed to assist the Speaker. If the committee made a report the Speaker would sign that report, but he does not belong to the committee. It is necessary to have a quorum in the committee. The committee is composed of three, and it is clear that they had no quorum. One member of the committee has made a report and signed. Can we decide now that that is a regular report?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—It is not of the slightest consequence what we call this report. It is a report, and whether it is a report of the committee as originally constituted is of no great consequence. The question for us to decide is whether we shall have some distinguishing uniform for the messengers of this House. That question may be referred to the Committee on Contingent Accounts or it may not. A single member of the committee may express his opinion to this House and the House may act upon that expression. The House of Commons adopted a uniform for their employees some time ago. It has been found very convenient to strangers visiting the buildings, because they know who the officers are, and they can ask the officers of the House for any information they desire.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—And the officers of the House had also authority.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—The same thing would happen if we were to adopt a uniform here. It is a matter of convenience to the public. I think it is trifling with the House to enter into a long discussion as to whether the report is regularly before us. It is a matter relating to a question upon which the House has an inherent authority and does not derive its power to act from the committee or any member of the committee. It might have taken the initiative in this matter without a report from any member of the committee. There is a report before us signed by His Honour the Speaker and by a member of the House, and if we choose to act upon that report it is clearly within our right to do so.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I agree with what has fallen from the lips of

the hon. leader of the House. Any member can come here and make a motion, although he is not representing a committee, but can any member come here and move the adoption of a report of a committee which does not exist, or at least which has not dealt with the question? There is a great difference between the two, and I cannot agree with the hon. minister when he says it is trifling with the House to debate this subject. It is not trifling with this House when you are dealing with the rules of the House. If we disregarded the rules of the House in our proceedings, then we would be trifling with the House. We should follow the rules.

The report was adopted on a division.

The Senate adjourned.

SECOND SITTING.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at Two o'Clock.

Routine proceedings.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (192) "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending 30th June, 1900, and for other purposes relating to the public service."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved the suspension of the forty-first rule in so far as the same relates to this bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved the second reading of the bill. He said:—The measure is, of course, one of very great importance, because the administration of the affairs of the country for the twelve months is dependent upon the supplies that have been granted by the House of Commons and of which we have been informed by this bill. I may say very briefly, that the amount of supply is somewhat larger than that usually asked for. The supply in the main estimate amounts to \$41,528,000, and in the supplementary esti-