

getting new ideas, and I hope we will be represented on the Railway Committee. As far as the Divorce Committee is concerned, nobody bothers his head very much about it.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—We will give that committee to Ontario.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Yes.

Hon. Mr. GIBSON—If my hon. friend will take the trouble to look at the proportion in the House of Commons, with nearly three times the membership of this House, he will find that the Striking Committee consists of five members in that chamber, as against nine members in this Chamber.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I do not think the reason given by my hon. friend is a very good one. This committee must consist of nine members because the principle is determined by our rules, and we are only complying with our rules when we appoint that number. If the rules of the House of Commons fix the number at five they cannot have more than five, and we cannot have more than nine. I think my hon. friend has made a point in saying that all the provinces which have become part of this Dominion should have one representative on that committee. I do not see why we should refuse that. They are all interested in the formation of the different committees, and I think it would be a good idea if we should adopt that principle and have one for each province. There are nine provinces, and that would give us a representative for each province.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There has never been heretofore a rule of that kind. The committee we are now appointing is a matter for the House to decide. It strikes me as a reasonably fair committee. The inviolable practice in the past has been to put those who have had seats in this Chamber for the longest period on the Striking Committee. They are supposed to have a better knowledge of how the members should be distributed on the different committees than senators more recently appointed.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I suppose that is the reason the hon. member is not on the committee himself.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There were too many who were anxious to get on the committee. I endeavoured to make a fair distribution

and I think I have succeeded. It can hardly be contended that the smaller provinces are entitled to the same representation on the committee as the larger provinces. For instance, Prince Edward Island, with four senators, could hardly expect the same representation as Ontario or Quebec, each of which has twenty-four senators. I have conformed to the practice that has been followed in this Chamber, and I think the selection on the present occasion is based upon past usage. Of course it is for the House to change it if the majority see fit to do so.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—I notice there are no members of the government on the committee. It has been found a source of inconvenience often when no members of the government have been put on some of the committees. There should be a member of the government on this committee, at all events.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—On behalf of a certain element in this House I wish to say I cannot concur altogether in the remarks of the hon. Secretary of State that this course should be pursued because it is in accordance with past usage. If I understand the policy of the Liberal party, the aim is to have the usages of this Senate changed, if not physically, at least politically and legislatively. There are many younger members of this Senate who are not known to the older members, and whose usefulness has not yet been tested. The older members have never known us. They simply tell us, when we rise to speak in this House that we have no right to do so, that we are only in leading strings here. The situation has changed completely. We are the younger element, the advancing, progressive element, and I quite concur with the hon. senator from Prince Albert (Hon. Mr. Davis) that it is time to change the usages of the past if they can be improved. I quite agree with him that a change should be made in this instance. The vast interests of this country have been displaced. There was a time when the hon. leader of the government and the hon. ex-leader of the opposition had all their ambition and all their hearts centred in Quebec and Ontario; but of late years that situation has changed. The heart and sympathy of Canada to-day are in the west and when the hon. senator from Prince Albert appeals