

sented to the House again. Even now the consideration of that report has not yet taken place, and consequently, if the debate which took place on the 14th of February, before the House adjourned, is published, it will relate to certain paragraphs of the report which were referred back to the Committee on Contingencies and which have not as yet been considered by the House. That is the state of the case as regards that particular debate, and I certainly think it would not be an undesirable thing for the House to express an opinion as to whether committees ought to be allowed to order the non-publication of a debate. It is true, I anticipated that a difference of opinion would occur, and I had the report of the debate type-written, and it is now in my hands, subject to the order of the House.

HON. MR. MILLER—What is the authority given to the committee?

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—The usual authority.

HON. MR. MILLER—Have you got it there?

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—You will find it on page 16 of the minutes. That is how the matter stands with regard to this report, and I think I cannot explain it any further than this, that the delay, in the first place, was in consequence of the adjournment of the House, and in the second place, in consequence of the pressure in the various committees and committee rooms of the Senate. But as to the other, whether the committee exceeded their powers or not in directing the reporter to withhold the report of that debate until further instructions, I appeal to the House for its decision. If the House desires that any of its debates should not be printed, it seems to me that it would be more becoming to direct the attention of the committee to that particular debate and give them instructions accordingly.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I pass by the question which has been raised by my hon. friend, and on which he desires to have the sense of the House, as to the power of the committee to deal with this matter, because I think there is a much more serious question lying behind it, and that is the propriety of the exercise of the power—assuming that they have it—to make such a recom-

mendation as appears in the report. The hon. gentleman from Charlottetown suggests that the committee might not have the power to interfere with the publication of a debate, but I do think that at the present moment, in the condition in which this House stands, it is of all times and all periods in its history the most untimely for suppressing a report on the contingent accounts of this House. I think, and I hope that my hon. friend, after the expression of the opinion of the House, will come to the same conclusion, that there is grave doubt as to the propriety of this report. We have been discussing these matters in connection with a Message from another place, and we may yet require to have further discussion to relieve ourselves of the imputation that we do not wish the public to know the grounds on which matters connected with the contingencies of the Senate rest. Our desire to give full information has been frequently expressed. We have already said it in the Message, that we wish to give the fullest and fairest information possible on the subject. We have nothing to conceal. If we have nothing to conceal, why omit the report of this debate? I take the opportunity now of making an appeal to our respected leader, whom I am quite sure we are all glad to welcome back with renovated health, to state what he thinks about the course that is recommended by the committee. The House has interfered in regard to debates involving personal matters and recriminations which were not creditable, perhaps, to any person who had taken part in them, and omitted them for the sake of common decency. But this is not such a report, and I trust the committee will receive a hint that if they have the power to act they must exercise it better. I hope the House will refuse to suppress this debate.

HON. MR. MACDONALD—Having been one of the first to move in this matter, I asked the question of the chairman of the committee the other day about it. Finding, to my great surprise, that the debate of that day was omitted from the official report, I made the enquiry how it happened, and learned that a member of the Debates Committee had instructed the reporter to withhold that portion of the report. Now, I consider this a very important thing, and a thing that strikes at