

the question of receiving the petition be allowed to stand over, that he might look into the authorities before coming to a final conclusion, as whatever the decision in this case might be, it must in a great degree guide future decisions of the House in similar cases.

**Mr. Chamberlin** said this was a very painful matter; but after the general attacks which had been made in this House on the Lower Canada Bench, he thought the person who came forward and asked the House to give grave consideration to specific complaints should receive assistance from the House, rather than be put down. The honest way was to bring specific complaints to be adjudicated on by Parliament, and this was what was done in this petition. He would be glad to have the assistance of honourable members to point out what was wrong in the petition, that it might be expunged.

#### THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

**Mr. Blanchet** moved the adoption of the 1st report of the Committee on the Library of Parliament. He said the Committee recommended that henceforth, as a general rule, no books on science and art should be allowed to be taken out of the Library, except under peculiar circumstances, and in case of works not easily accessible elsewhere. Only novels and books of ordinary reading should be allowed to leave the Library, and these only in Ottawa. The Committee also recommended that, as soon as possible, the Library accommodation should be enlarged by going on with the Library building. At present there was so little room that it was impossible to keep the books in good order.

**Mr. Mills** thought that if members were to be excluded from taking out valuable, scientific and legal works, the value of the Library would be to a great extent done away with. He would therefore oppose the report.

**Hon. Mr. Fisher** concurred in the remarks of the member for Bothwell. He hoped the Library building would not be proceeded with. In some of the spare Committee rooms of the building, there was abundance of room for such of their books as could not obtain room in the present Library chamber.

**Mr. Chamberlin** hoped the views of the last speaker would not be adopted by the Government. It seemed to him that there was no propriety in throwing the Library open to the citizens of Ottawa during the vacation while members were excluded from it.

[Sir J. A. Macdonald (Kingston).]

**Dr. Parker** hoped the House would not adopt the report of the Library Committee. While members were in Ottawa their time was so employed that they could make little use of the Library, and at the time they could make use of it they would be shut out by the report.

**Mr. Young** argued that the report now brought in would make the Library utterly useless to members of the House.

**The Speaker** explained that it was not proposed by this report to embrace works of general literature, but rare scientific works—works of reference. Manifestly if members carried away several boxes of such works which would not be returned till next session, a great injustice would be done to members repairing to the library to consult such works.

**Mr. Young**, seconded by **Mr. Mills**, moved that the reports be not now adopted, but be referred back to the Committee.

**Mr. Mackenzie** suggested that the report should be withdrawn.

**Sir J. A. Macdonald** explained that this was a Library for the Dominion, and should not be a circulating Library to be carried home by members, knocked about by their children for a year, and then lost or returned torn and defaced. Let members of Parliament be allowed to get from the Library on an order from the Speaker, and having given a receipt, such books as they really required in following up any study. There could be no objection to that course; but there must be a limit, and every effort must be made to preserve those rare and valuable works of reference without which the Library would be useless. He would suggest that, as some of the provisions of the report were too stringent, it should be referred back to the Committee. He also spoke against granting sums to authors to aid in the publication of their works. As a rule, any work of value was pretty sure to be patronized by the public, and nothing was gained by encumbering the Parliamentary shelves with worthless works.

**Mr. Jones** repudiated, for his part, the statement that he had any hand in the defacing of any of the books in the Parliamentary Library. He thought the members should at all times have full access to the Library. He took out very few books and made good use of them.