

of the name of Mr. Scriver for that of Mr. McIntyre, and the addition of the name of Mr. Somerville, the member for North Brant, to the committee. That would give us the old members, and it would give us six to eight instead of five to eight, which the hon. gentleman proposes. I do not think that is justice, but it is as near justice as I expect.

Mr. BOWELL. As the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, will be satisfied with that change, with even that measure of justice, I shall be very glad to accept his proposition. But I must at the same time dissent *in toto* from the principle he has laid down that because the members of the committee have been changed, or that because a majority of that committee may belong to this side of the House, therefore, in a matter of this kind, at least, the committee would not do that justice which has always been meted out to the Opposition by the Debates Committee. I may mention that it was not from any want of confidence, on the part of those who selected this committee, in the member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver), or in the member for North Brant (Mr. Somerville), that their names were left out; but it was necessary in forming a large committee in adopting the principle which I laid down when making the motion, that some members of the committee must be left out. Some of those who were left out belong to the Conservative party and represent constituencies in the Province of Quebec and the Province of Ontario, but certainly it was not for the reason that we had not confidence in them but because, in a committee which was to represent the whole House, in supervising the reporting of the debates, we thought that it was much better that each section of the Dominion should be represented. I have no objection to accept the proposition made by the leader of the Opposition, to substitute the name of Mr. Scriver for that of Mr. McIntyre and to add Mr. Somerville to the committee.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, in the performance of the simple task assigned to me upon the present occasion I would earnestly crave the indulgence of yourself, Sir, and this honorable House. Although not a young man, I am a young member, and he who for the first time addresses you, Sir, in the presence of these hon. gentlemen, must be deeply impressed with the dignity of his audience, and must feel all that trepidation of heart which a novice experiences when he first displays his raw accomplishments before those who are the masters of his art. If, therefore, I stumble or falter in that which I desire to do, I trust that you, Sir, will kindly forget that I have failed, and only remember that I have tried to do my duty. His Excellency, in the first paragraph of his Speech congratulates us upon the great prosperity of the country and upon a coming season of progress and peace. It is gratifying to us to hear that the country is thriving, quiet and prosperous, and that the prospect for the future is equally bright and cheering. However widely hon. gentlemen may differ in their opinions in regard to the best means of promoting this peace and prosperity, yet I am sure all have the same end in view, and it must be to them a source of the highest satisfaction, a most pleasing reward for their arduous labors in this House, to learn of the well-being and the well-doing of our people, and to know that peace and plenty dwell amongst them. As loyal and attached subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, we, in common with all who in other lands bear to her true allegiance, would offer our most hearty congratulations upon the near completion of the

50th year of her mild and beneficent reign. At the period of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne, a century and a quarter had nearly elapsed since a lady ruled in England. The world, and especially the British world, had changed marvellously in that time. Not only were the social, industrial and economical condition of her people altered, but the lines of political liberty had been extended, the franchise had been widened, and new and very different ideas had been introduced regarding the rights of the people and the political influence and prerogatives of the Crown. Many of Her Majesty's predecessors were sovereigns largely endowed with intellectual gifts of the highest order, yet I venture to say that none better, and few as well, apprehended and appreciated the spirit of the age, the temper of the times, as did that innocent, simple-minded, blushing maiden, Queen Victoria, fifty years ago. None have ever better or more clearly understood the wishes of the people, interfered less with the popular will, or performed more acceptably or more diligently all the onerous duties of an exemplary constitutional sovereign. And while we have the highest admiration for her political discernment and sagacity, let us not forget that her personal and private virtues as a daughter, wife and mother have illumined the Throne with a resplendent moral grandeur which shines through all the earth, and shall continue to shine long after the fame of her greatness as a monarch shall have become dim in the memories of men. We are dutiful and respectful to our most able sovereign, the Queen, but our hearts have their argument as our understandings have, and it is our love and reverence for a pure and noble woman that sing so lustily

"God Save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen."

But to us, as the representatives of the people of this Dominion, the year of Her Majesty's jubilee suggest many and varied thoughts. Fifty years ago, of the Provinces which form the Confederation some were altogether unknown and some were known by names other than those they now bear. Our people were few, scarcely one-third of their present number, our revenues were small and their sources limited and unproductive, our public improvements were insignificant, and communication between the separate Provinces was difficult and rare; our agriculture was crude and unscientific, and manufactures, in the proper acceptance of the term, had neither a local habitation nor a name. We were hewers of wood (in a literal sense) and drawers of water for the skilled workmen of other lands. Our value as a mart for commerce was but trifling, and other nations, if they thought of us at all, regarded us with indifference, if not with pity and contempt. But worse than all, fifty years ago the people of each of the older Provinces were involved in bitter dissensions amongst themselves. One branch of the Legislature was arrayed against the other, one class of society was not in sympathy with another class. We hear the ominous sounds of popular grievances, governmental scandals, bills of right and most comprehensive resolutions. We hear the shouts of fiery orators, the whisperings of ardent plotters, crimination and recrimination, till we witness the pitiable sight of the whole inflammable mass wrapped in the consuming flames of civil war. We who are today so peaceful, dutiful and loyal, had no pleasanter spectacle to exhibit to our young and inexperienced Queen fifty years ago, in the beginning of her reign, than the citizens of one common country arrayed in virulent opposition to each other, grasping each other by the throat, seeking each other's lives,—dead patriots, blazing buildings, and garments rolled in blood. Fifty years under the wise and mild government of Her Majesty the Queen have changed all that. We are an orderly, law-abiding people, and although in this period there have been outbreaks of violence, yet