

hension. I think it was unanimously thrown out by both parties.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—So hopeless was the minority in its endeavours.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—If my hon. friend is so anxious that those who share his opinion in politics should be placed on that committee, I am sure if he brings it before us, the government and the Senate want to act fairly and squarely in the matter, and they can add a member at any time. There can be an amendment after the committee is struck, and we can add a member or two at any time. It is not like the laws of the Medes and Persians. Otherwise the whole of the business will be delayed. I understand that the object is to strike the committees and have them get to work when we come back. I am on quite a number of committees, and I would not care very much if I was struck off some of them. If anybody wants to take my place I am willing he should have it for the sake of peace.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not propose to continue the discussion further than to supplement what has been said by the hon. gentleman from Lauzon (Mr. Bolduc). He knows, and so does the committee, that I objected to be on some of the committees for which I had been named, and I moved the striking off of my own name, substituting in every case a Liberal that I thought eminently fitted to serve on these committees. And, I stated then—although we should not refer to proceedings in the committees—what the Secretary of State has properly said, that while I have been on that committee, since 1893, I have never heard the question of politics mooted until this time, and I suppose the western atmosphere has had such wonderful effect upon the political views of the hon. gentleman that he fancies the interests of the western country will be ignored unless he occupies some position of importance on those committees. The Secretary of State has laid down the principle which has guided us on all occasions. Where one province has had an undue proportion, it has resulted from the fact that they thought that the persons who were placed upon those committees were better fitted for the position than some others. That their avocation in life was such as fitted them for

such positions, and that is really the reason. I regret, myself, that the question has ever arisen. I know that on one of those committees, a prominent Liberal, our present Speaker, was as active and energetic, and I think exercised as much, if not more, influence in the formation of committees and in the appointments recommended by the Committee on Internal Economy as any other member of the House, but I never heard his appointment claimed on that ground. He was an active and energetic man, and on all occasions exercised his right. I regret that this discussion has come up. The names of those that are left off all the committees, I confess, escaped my attention, and probably the attention of others. I asked the hon. gentleman for them and he very courteously sent me the list. I will not mention them, but they are before me. They are members who never come here except perhaps when brought by telegraph. Some of them have been here perhaps one day during the session, while Conservative members, who have been left off the committee, and Liberals substituted in their place, were men who were physically unable to come. In those cases we did not stop to ask whether they were Liberals or not. That has been the spirit which has actuated the Committee of Selection in the striking of those committees.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I think the suggestion made would perhaps be a satisfactory one, that the report might be adopted and amended. If there are members who have been left off, it is proper that they should be on some of the committees. As far as we can we wish to put members on the committees that they desire to serve on, and in respect to which business in which they take an interest will come up. The mode of proceeding was not, to my mind, entirely satisfactory. I would have preferred a different mode of striking committees. It seemed to be the rule which had been adopted heretofore to continue as members of the committees those who had been upon the same committees in previous parliaments. I do not know that that is a desirable thing. I shall certainly feel myself free, another session, to act upon the assumption that we are not bound by the past, or what has been done in the past, and that when we meet for the purpose of