

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I propose following the precedent which was adopted on a former occasion, to move now that an humble Address, based on the resolution of this House, be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, and that it be then ordered that the members of the Privy Council present the Address.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I would like to ask my hon. friend whether he considers the adoption of the report a sufficient adjudication upon the question? The law requires that the House should adjudge and determine, and that report recommends that the House should pass such a resolution adjudicating and judging the seat vacant. Would it not be better to have that resolution distinct, adopted by the House, so as to have a record of the fact beyond the adoption of the report, which means inferentially the same thing?

HON. MR. MILLER—I think the course recommended by the leader of the House would be quite sufficient. The adoption of the report of the committee of this House is an adjudication of the subject by the House. After adopting the report as the House has already done, I think it is quite in order to pass such a resolution as the leader now proposes, transmitting the report of the committee, which has become the resolution of the House, to His Excellency for his guidance.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I felt the same difficulty as the hon. gentleman from Amherst. I thought possibly it might be the best course for the House to pass the substantive resolution which is recommended by the committee; but I do think that the adoption of the report recommending this resolution has precisely the same effect, and I therefore abandoned the first idea I had in deference to the precedents I find on our records—that is to say, the course followed in the case of the deprivation of Mr. Dickson of his seat. If it was considered sufficient, I think we should follow the precedent.

HON. MR. POWER—Does not the report of the committee, as the hon. gentleman from Amherst has stated, recommend that the House should adopt a resolution?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Possibly.

HON. MR. POWER—Then the House has not adopted the resolution. We accept the advice of the committee, but do not carry it out, and I think the hon. gentleman from Amherst is quite right in the point he has taken.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I can really say no more about it than I have said already. It appears to me that as the committee has reported, and the House has adopted the report, we practically adopt the resolution of the committee, and a substantive resolution is not necessary. I find two precedents for the course we have adopted, and I think it is better, as I believe there is no material difference between the two procedures, to follow precedent.

HON. MR. DICKEY—I think in this proceeding of all others we show the smallest amount of deference for precedents. We have departed from the precedent in the Dickson case in every particular except in this, and now we propose to bring the Dickson case in as a precedent in this part of the proceeding.

HON. MR. SCOTT—This is the important part of the report:

“Resolved, That the Honourable George Alexander, one of the members of the Senate from the Province of Ontario, has for two consecutive sessions of the last Parliament of Canada failed to give his attendance in the House, and thereby vacated his seat; that this House, in pursuance of the 33rd section of the British North America Act, 1867, doth declare, determine and adjudge the said seat of the Honourable George Alexander vacated.”

HON. MR. DICKEY—Read the preamble. It recommends that the House resolve.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It recommends that the House adopt this report, and it has adopted it. The House adopts the report, it becomes the action of the House, and we cannot fortify it any more. It is absolute, I believe.

The motion was agreed to.

THE GREAT MACKENZIE BASIN.

MOTION.

HON. MR. GIRARD moved:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General; praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House, copies of all Orders in Council, commissions and instructions for nominating a person or persons