

opinion is the best of all. It expresses a prudent view of the matter; and one not hostile to the Senate. In one of the paragraphs of his letter he says:

In considering all subjects of the class to which the present belongs, regard has always, and very rightly, been paid to history and precedents,—

That is my contention. He adds:

—and the relations between our Senate and House of Commons are, as I think, so firmly established that no change could be introduced save by constitutional amendment. I do not mean, necessarily, by amendment of the British North America Act. Amendment of constitutional practice, agreed upon by both Houses, would suffice.

According to my view, that is the only practical way of dealing with this question. We may pass any number of resolutions, but if they are not according to the views of the other House, or if we do not agree with the other House on some workable views, all these are but vain efforts towards a goal we cannot reach.

This resolution is in its possibilities tantamount to throwing down the gauntlet to the other House. I see no necessity for that, neither do I see any good from it. The House of Lords tried it in answer to a resolution passed by the House of Commons in 1678 in order to set the House of Lords back. That resolution was as follows:

That all aids and supplies and aids to His Majesty in Parliament are the sole gift of the Commons, and that all Bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies ought to begin with the Commons, and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit and appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords.

To this the House of Lords answered fifteen years later, in 1693, by the following resolution:

That the making of amendments and abatements of rates, of bills, of supplies, is not from the House of Commons, but is a fundamental, inherent, and undoubted right of the House of Peers, from which their Lordships can never depart.

But they had to depart from it; and now they have departed from it so much that most radical changes have been made, and some more radical ones are proposed, affecting the very existence of the House of Lords. Do you believe that we, the Senators of the Dominion, are more powerful than the House of Lords have proven to be or are to-day? That is not my opinion. My humble opinion is that, while thanking the committee and the honourable

Hon. Mr. POIRIER.

gentleman from Middleton for the very valuable information they have put before us, and the elaborate report they have made, we should let this matter lie dormant, and not come to any conclusion. Otherwise it will be a gauntlet thrown down to the other House. If we adopt this report, as we were on the eve of doing, the Speaker of this House would be in duty bound to stand by this resolution in matters of appropriation and money Bills, which would bring us into trouble. Troubles come of their own volition; let us not go and invite trouble for our House. Let us keep to the mission, always an honourable one, which consists more especially, if I may repeat the opinion given by Sir John A. Macdonald and George Brown, of thwarting hasty, indiscreet legislation in matters where minorities might be molested; in equivoicing matters; but, in so far as money questions are concerned, let us always remember that it is the people who pay the taxes and pass money Bills, and that our people, who are the heirs of the English peasants of two centuries ago, are as solicitous and as jealous of their rights as their and our ancestors were.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Choquette, the debate was adjourned.

At 6 o'clock, the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 8 o'clock.

PUBLICATION OF THE DEBATES OF THE SENATE.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS moved:

That, in view of the imperative call for economy in all branches of the public service, it is the opinion of this House that the reporting and printing of the official report of the Debates of the Senate should be discontinued.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, in view of the statement submitted to this House on Friday, I need now only briefly summarize the points made on that occasion. The main point is: that in this time of national stress and necessity, when economy and retrenchment are of vital importance, every dollar that can be saved in the public expenditure should be saved.

This Senate last year spent \$33,000, in round figures, on the publication of verbatim reports of every trivial, petty, and unnecessary word uttered on the floor of this House. The debates are published in both the English and French languages. Over \$20,000 of the \$33,000 was for pub-