

**Mr. Sproat** opposed the report. The speeches were too lengthy already, and would be much more lengthy under an official reporting system.

**Hon. Mr. Howe** said that but for the peculiar circumstances under which they were assembled, he would be in favour of leaving the reporting to the free competition of the public press—but it must be remembered that this Parliament, representing a nation, sat in a comparatively small town, the newspapers of which were quite adequate to the work of a small town, but they could not be expected to report the proceedings of Parliament from day to day in the way that would be expected of the newspapers in Toronto or Montreal, if Parliament sat in either of those cities. As regarded the Toronto and Montreal newspapers, they obtained their reports by telegraph, and the expense of sending them over the wires was so great that he understood these newspapers had to enter into a combination for the purpose, and even with that obtained their reports at an enormous expense. This expense necessarily curtailed the reports, and as regarded the people of the Lower Provinces they would find the speeches, especially of their own members, remarkably meagre, although for himself he must say the reporters had done him ample justice. As to the cost, what was \$12,000 to a nation like this? (Laughter). He ventured to say that he would take up the public accounts and in half an hour save the whole cost. He believed the reporters did as much justice to the speeches as was possible under present circumstances, but the system for the reasons he had explained was not satisfactory. He had sat in the reporters' gallery himself and done their work day and night, and he knew the responsibilities of their work and frequently what little thanks they got from the members whose speeches they generally made better than they were delivered, and very seldom worse. (Hear, hear).

**Mr. Bodwell** opposed the scheme on account of its expense.

**Mr. Chamberlin** supported it. He said that under the British system we had not a written constitution, but a Constitution made up of political precedents, and made up largely indeed of the wise saying of the wise men of the nation in Parliament. As we were endeavouring to create a constitution based on that of the mother country, we would find the advantage of presenting in an authentic form the discussions in Parliament. In the courts

provision was made not merely for preserving the decisions of the judges, but reports were made of the grounds on which they based these decisions; and every lawyer knew that the judge made law thus recorded was as important and binding as the statutory law of the land.

**Mr. Dunkin** was decidedly in favour of a system of official reporting. It was simply impossible to give correct reports by telegraph. The system of official reporting would tend to shorten rather than lengthen debates, and would improve their time and quality. If members knew that their speeches would be reported in full, and to be preserved for future reference, they would take greater pains in preparing them. There could be no question if we had official reports at all, we should have them in both languages.

**Hon. J. H. Cameron (Peel)** said it was of the greatest possible importance that the debates should be preserved in that form which could be referred to as an authority. In regard to the matter of expense, if they spent money for no worse purpose than this they could show a very clean record.

**Mr. Morris** trusted the House would adopt the report. It would be of great value both to the House and the country to have official reports to which to refer. Members were continually referring to the English Hansard during debate on constitutional questions and official reports of proceedings of this Parliament would be equally valuable to future Parliaments.

**Mr. E. M. McDonald** said if they were ever to have official reports now was the time when we are commencing a new course. He had supported the proposition in Committee and would like to see the report adopted.

**Mr. S. Ferguson** opposed the adoption of the report.

**Mr. Harrison** supported it. An official report of proceedings of this Parliament would be of great value as a book of reference to members of the Local Legislatures.

**Sir John A. Macdonald** said Government would leave this question in the hands of the House. The report did not recommend official reports. It only submitted terms by which reports could be published. He would suggest that the report be referred back to the Committee for them to prepare a formal recommendation of a plan of official report-