

requisition so frequently during all hours of the day, and often during the night as well, that it would be very inconvenient if his quarters were removed from the building. His books, papers, records, and so on, are at his hand when he is in the building, and are all available for reference when information is desired by members. The customs and practices of our houses of Parliament change very little from generation to generation and from age to age. There is a dignity that attaches to them from the sacredness of age that I think should not be overlooked or disregarded. The practices and customs which have obtained in our houses of Parliament since Confederation have been established along the same lines and upon the same principles—so far as they are applicable to our situation, which differs from theirs in many particulars—as those of the House of Commons and the House of Lords in England. In keeping up those customs and practices, it seems to me that we are not only maintaining the connection with the general principles which, when learned by public men, are so easily kept in mind and so easily followed, but as time goes on we are adding a greater dignity and influence to the houses of Parliament than they would have if we were constantly changing from one condition to another. Judging from my experience in Parliament—and I am in my thirty-eighth consecutive year, and I think—I may be pardoned if I say that I have given fairly close attention to the business of Parliament and to the duties of the members of both Houses—it would be a mistake to depart to any great extent from what has been our regular custom and practice heretofore, in having the Speakers' apartments in the building instead of outside.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: Honourable gentlemen, I concur most fully in the observations made by the two honourable gentlemen who have preceded me. This is not a time when any of us are willing to advocate unnecessary expenditure, but I do not think that what has been proposed would increase the cost of construction to any appreciable extent. I think it is highly desirable and fitting to continue the old practice of having accommodation in each House for its Speaker. While I am a pronounced radical, I believe in a certain dignity being maintained; and I think it would be a serious departure from the dignity of the House of Commons and of the Senate to discontinue the practice of having the Speakers' quarters established in the build-

Hon. Mr. SPROULE.

ing. Many members have almost continuous business with the Speaker, and it would be a great inconvenience to them to have to go perhaps to some remote part of the city. I sincerely hope that the committee having this matter in charge will not depart from the old practice, and that accommodation for both Speakers will be provided in the building.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I am the next speaker here for the moment, but I am not the next Speaker.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: You are the ex-Speaker. It sounds very much the same.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I may say that my sentiments are in accord with those expressed by the honourable gentlemen who have spoken; but what is the use of my expressing an opinion now? What is the use of trying to preserve our ancient customs? We are in a time of war, and everything that is conservative in our usages we put aside; but one thing continues—the plan of the new building provides ample accommodation for the future; and, if so, I do not see why we should not avail ourselves of the accommodation, and, as the honourable gentlemen who have preceded me have said, retain a usage which is for the common benefit of the House itself and of the honourable gentlemen who will adorn the position of Speaker in the future.

Hon. J. W. DANIEL: I do not think very much would be effected merely by giving expression to views. I think what would be effective would be for the Senate to pass a resolution stating that in their opinion the Speaker's chambers ought to be provided in the new building. Apparently the Government have come to the conclusion that they are responsible for the quarters of the Speaker and that it is the duty of the country to provide quarters for him. I think we may take that for granted, because the Government are now paying for the quarters of the Speaker outside of the building. So that part of the matter is settled. Then, if the Government is responsible, what is the best way of fulfilling that responsibility? I think it would be the general view that the best way of carrying that out would be by providing chambers in the new building, or attached thereto in such a way as to conform with the architectural features. I think that if the Senate takes sufficient interest in the matter and has formed a strong opinion upon it, it should be put in the form of a resolution, and it would then be likely to have some effect.