

of this House to do so, and I understand it is. Of the nearly four and a-half millions of people of the Dominion of Canada, nearly two-thirds are to-day engaged in agricultural pursuits. We have two classes of political theorists in the country who hold different views with respect to this question; and a great many people are inclined honestly to support what they believe to be in the interest of the agricultural class, if they were able to ascertain that it really would be to their interest that the National Policy should be continued. Representing, as I do, an agricultural district where a large majority of the people are engaged in these pursuits; and finding, as I have done, that one class strongly contend that no benefit is derived by the farming community from the National Policy, while another class just as strongly maintain that great benefit is resulting from it, I say it is most important that we should have some report from an authoritative source on this subject when we go back to the country again. Any information that may be laid before the committee, and any report that may come from it, will be accepted with greater confidence by the people, and will appeal to their honest, unbiassed judgment, with greater force than it would if coming from representatives of either of the political parties. Again, this committee would be enabled to send for persons and papers and get information that could not be obtained through other channels. They will be able to put it in such a shape as that the agriculturists can easily judge for themselves as to whether it would be for their interest to continue the National Policy. If it does nothing else than to establish the fact as to whether it is or is not advantageous, and if it is, how far; and if not, what different plan could be adopted that would be in their interest—if it does nothing else, it will be of great interest to the farming community and the country in general. I believe that a very large majority of the farmers believe that the National Policy is benefitting them; still there are a great many others who do not think so, some of whom are not opposed to the Government. Many others are unsettled in their opinion, reading as they do journals supporting opposite views on the subject. If you can enable those parties to decide either one way or the other, I think it will be in the interest of this country. I deem it therefore to be my duty to support the appointment of that committee. The sooner it is appointed the better. The sooner the information is obtained and the report is made in such a shape that it can be laid before the agriculturists, the better for them, and the better for the establishment of the principle as to whether the National Policy is or is not in the interest of that large and extensive class.

Mr. TROW. I was approached to-day by the hon. mover of this resolution, asking me whether I would serve as a member of that committee. I think it quite important that a committee should be selected for that purpose. It is a matter of vital interest to this great country of ours. But I think it is essential that a much more practical committee should be selected. For instance, I have not heard all the names, but it seems to me that there should be some practical agriculturists placed on that committee. I understood from the mover to-day that he intended to put on Mr. Bain and Mr. Charlton. But I object, in the first place, that notice ought to be given of the names of the committee, which has not been done. I object to the formation of the committee, in consequence of the proper notice not having been given.

Mr. ORTON. In reference to Mr. Bain, I spoke to him to-day and he told me he was afraid he could not act, that he was going home.

Mr. BURPEE (Sunbury). I think the names should have been put in the motion. We do not know who they are. It has been observed by my hon. friend on this side of the House that gentlemen holding different opinions with regard

Mr. SPROULE.

to protection should be placed on that committee. I have one objection to make: it is that there are only two members from the Maritime Provinces on that committee, and they are both on the same side of politics. I think that both shades of politics from the Lower Provinces should be represented on that committee. I believe Mr. Girouard (Kent) is on the committee for New Brunswick, and I think there is no one on the Liberal side of politics from Nova Scotia. I think the complexion of the committee is not fair to the House or to the country. Moreover, I believe the objection has been made that the names have not been placed on the committee.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is usual that the names of a committee should be given in the notice, and that has not been done in this case.

Mr. GAULT. I think the prices obtained for farm produce throughout the Dominion show sufficiently that the farmers are satisfied with the National Policy. If this committee desires to know the price obtained by farmers for their produce, it will be easy to do so by consulting the market reports. I am sure the prices are thoroughly satisfactory to the farmers. They are saving money rapidly. When I have entered the Savings Bank at Montreal, I have observed that out of thirty or forty people in the bank, twenty of them were farmers who were making deposits in the banks. And throughout this whole country, east and west, wherever I have been I have found the farmers depositing their money in the banks at three per cent. and paying off their debts to the loan societies. They have been doing so very largely during the past year. I cannot see the object of this committee.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I would suggest to my hon. friend that it would be very desirable to instruct the committee to enquire what benefits there have been to owners of cotton mills.

Mr. GAULT. I can tell the hon. gentleman that I am a stockholder in the Hudon Cotton Mills—probably the largest in Canada—and that my stock has not paid me three per cent. The time may come when it will be more profitable, but the time has not come yet.

Mr. SPEAKER. I rule the motion out of order on the ground that notice was not given of the composition of the proposed committee.

#### MOTIONS FOR RETURNS.

The following motions for returns were severally agreed to:—

Copies of all reports in relation to improvements, &c., to be made on the wharf at St. Michel, County of Bellechasse.—(Mr. Amyot.)

Report of the Commission consisting of Judges Miller and Dubuc to report on certain staked claims under the Manitoba Act.—(Mr. Costigan.)

Return showing the amounts paid to Mr. E. Dewdney, as Indian Commissioner, amount paid to Mr. Galt as his Private Secretary, and all amounts paid to or on behalf of both for travelling expenses, travelling outfit and all other expenses, from the date of their appointment to 1st July, 1881.—(Mr. Ross, Middlesex.)

Return showing all sums paid to Sir A. T. Galt as High Commissioner; also amount paid for rent and outfit of his residence in London; also amount paid for travelling expenses of himself and his associates in the service of the Government since the 1st of July, 1878.—(Mr. Ross, Middlesex.)

Return by Ports showing the quantity and value of all kinds of coal entered in warehouse or otherwise, either under the heads of free, or for exportation, or for the use of vessels trading on the great lakes and rivers of the Dominion, since March 14th, 1879, up to February 1st, 1882.—(Mr. Burpee, St. John.)