

statements at least two or three times before the Debates Committee and the Internal Economy Committee on this very question of comparative cost between the translation done in the other House and that done in this House; and we have come to the conclusion, after looking into it, that we were not paying more for the translation here than the House of Commons was paying.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—Has not the cost in this House increased very greatly in late years?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The cost of the translation, no.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I hear the word "yes." It has not cost more than the different services of the Senate have cost. The increase has been general, and more especially through the application of the Civil Service Act upon the staff of the Senate; but if you will compare that branch of the service with the other branches I think you will find that my information is correct.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I did not know, when I moved that innocent little motion, that I was going to stir up such a tempest.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—There is no tempest.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—In answer to my hon. friend who asked what reason there is for the motion, I would tell him the large increases granted in the cost of this branch of the work in the Senate in the last year or two, and I wanted to find out whether we are justified in making those large increases to the salaries of translators which my hon. friend talked about. My hon. friend from Montreal got wrathful on this subject; his speech might very well have been made after the committee had reported, if their report did not suit him. In the meantime, what harm can the committee do? I want to know whether or not the cost of translation in this House is more than it should be, and whether it is done properly. If this committee find that the work is done properly and the cost is no more than it should be, they will say so; on the other hand, if they find the work is not done properly, and that the cost is excessive, they will report that to the House, and the subject will be discussed. They are not going to tear up anything; we want information and I think we are entitled to have it. Large increases have

been granted in this branch of work in this House every year, and I for one want to find out whether we are paying more than we should pay for that work. In regard to the talk about having cultured men who are up in arts and science and finance and all that kind of thing, I suppose we should have just as good translators in the House of Commons as there are here; and I do not know whether they are up in arts and science and finance and all the other arts that my hon. friend talks about; they may be, but translation is translation.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I suppose if the translation is not properly done we would have some way of arriving at it. I suppose my hon. friend, who is up in arts and all that sort of thing, has arrived at a conclusion as to whether the work was properly done or not, from reading French Journals of this House or those of the House of Commons. We want investigation. Some of my hon. friends assume that this House is going to prorogue to-day or to-morrow. I do not see any signs of prorogation. There is a lot of very important legislation that has not come to us yet, that has not even passed the other House, and while we are waiting we might have this committee appointed. I assume that in one day we could have all the information we require reported to this House; hence I do not see any reason why the committee should not be appointed.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR—I do not think the hon. member who has just taken his seat has made his case any stronger; in fact, I think the discussion which has taken place since I asked my question makes his case weaker. The hon. gentleman from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has stated that the increase in the expenses of the officers of this House has been proportionate—that there has been no greater increase in the expense attending translation than in the other offices.

The mover of this resolution complains that there has been an unwarranted increase in the cost of translation. If there has been an unwarranted increase in the expenses of this or of other offices, he had better include all the offices in his motion, and following out the argument he has advanced, the only conclusion we can arrive at is that we should have an investigation as to the charges and expenses in connection with the officials of this House, with a view of calling for tenders