

fall in line or they would not get the business. The bill to repeal the agreement passed in the House of Commons, and then came to the Senate. The Honourable Robert Watson, from Manitoba, was one of the chief members of the Opposition in the Senate at that time, and Sir James Lougheed, from Alberta, was Leader of the Government. The great majority of senators in those days were Conservatives, and they, supported by Liberal senators, postponed the legislation for a period of I think, three years, by which time things had changed. The agreement is still on the statute books, and by it the farmers of the three western wheat provinces are saved a minimum of \$24 million a year. Perhaps you will say that the railroad should have that money, but a contract was made.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The saving is \$50 million a year now.

Hon. Mr. Haig: My friend says \$50 million. A representative of the C.P.R. has stated that it is \$19 million a year, but my figure is \$24 million a year. I do not know that we deserve that figure as payment, but we do not get it anyway. If, as my friend says, the saving is \$50 million a year, we should strike at once and get more of that money, for we are entitled to it.

I urge honourable senators themselves to read the history of Confederation in its relation to the Senate. I am not a bit afraid of a public discussion on this issue. The late Senator Léger, of New Brunswick, told me in 1927, when there was a conference of all the provinces here, that at that time some member of the Government brought up the question of changing the constitution of the Senate, but the provinces unanimously said no. I think the same answer would be given today. On the part of the people there is an overriding hope that if some matter does not receive fair consideration in the interests of the people, the Senate is a place where redress will be made.

Honourable senators, I have spoken longer than I should have done, and perhaps I have gone a little far afield. I will conclude by urging again that the Leader of the Government push legislation through this house so that it will reach the House of Commons in plenty of time before prorogation. Those

of us here, if we are alive after the election will come back, but some members of Commons will not. I hope that during the coming year conditions will improve in our country for all its people, including senators.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

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

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN ADOPTED

Hon. F. W. Gershaw moved that the report of the Parliamentary Librarian for the year 1956, which was presented by the Honourable the Speaker on January 9, be adopted.

He said: Honourable senators, a report on the Library of Parliament is presented annually to the Senate. The present report, which is signed by Mr. F. A. Hardy, Parliamentary Librarian, outlines some of the activities during 1956. On June 19 of last year His Excellency the Governor General, amidst appropriate ceremonies, officially reopened the Library, which had had to be largely rebuilt because of damage by fire. For more than three years members of the staff had occupied temporary quarters in the Reading Room of the House of Commons, the Supreme Court building, and the Canadian Bank Note Company building. Recent official publications of the Government of Canada, the provincial Governments, and of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries, as well as of the United Nations Organization and affiliated agencies, are now all housed in the Library. Considerable cataloguing of books, which had been in storage, has been done, and within the next few months, when these books have been carefully arranged, a decision will be made as to which ones should be kept and which should be sent to the National Library.

During the year the General Librarian, Mr. Felix Desrochers, retired, after 23 years of faithful service; and, under the Library of Parliament Act, Mr. Guy Sylvestre, Assistant Librarian, was appointed Associate Parliamentary Librarian, by the Governor General in Council.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.