

his appointment, and the only thing he had to do was to select a uniform. He went further than that, but it is not astonishing at all. Why? Because he began to act without authority. Two members of the committee had gone home. It was impossible to have a quorum, but he went on and said "I will be the committee," and he prepared a report, and in that report he ignores the instructions he received and says that the housekeeper, the doorkeeper and the keeper of the wardrobe and the Speaker's two permanent messengers shall be supplied with uniforms of one style and other messengers with uniforms of a somewhat different style, and he says that the trousers should have red piping on the outer seam of each leg, that the buttons must be of brass and caps navy blue, the pattern to be chosen by the Serjeant-at-Arms. The whole civil service is to be consulted in the choosing of that uniform. One must choose the buttons, another the gold lace and another the red braid which must go on the trousers and hide the seams, and I do not know who else has not been brought in to choose other parts of the uniforms. I contend that this report is ultra vires and not in accordance with the instructions given to the sub-committee. The hon. gentleman has made distinctions between the messengers, which he had no right to do, and for that reason the report is unconstitutional. I hope the House will not adopt this report. We have just received it this morning and have not had time to consider it. If we decided to accept it in these dying hours of the session, perhaps we might regret our action and be obliged to have our messengers change trousers next session if we adopt the pattern with the brass buttons.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—It would not be an unusual thing.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I do not understand that the question of order has yet been decided.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It has been decided.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Is it decided that this is a report?

Hon. Mr. CLEMOW—Yes.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I ask the House to decide whether this is a formal or an informal report.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Informal.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I move that this report be not now taken into consideration, but that it be declared not to be a report at all.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Put the motion in writing.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—The hon. gentleman's motion is not in writing.

The SPEAKER—It is before the House.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I move in amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville, that this so-called report be not now taken into consideration, but that it be taken into consideration this day six months.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—It is all very well for us to amuse ourselves, as we have nothing to do till the Supply Bill comes before us, but I think there is something due to the dignity of this House, and I do not think that amendment should be submitted. We have a report on the minutes presented for adoption. The committee appointed could not act under their proper powers, but to talk of the report being a so-called report is not very dignified, and it is not a proper thing to ask the Speaker to put the motion to the House.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I will withdraw the word "so-called," but I do not want the report adopted.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I did not hear the Speaker's decision; was it decided that this was a report?

The SPEAKER—No, I said nothing of that kind. I said I did not think it was within the jurisdiction of the Speaker to decide whether the report was properly drawn or not—that it should be left to the House to decide that question.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE—Then the Speaker has not decided that this report was a proper one.

The SPEAKER—No, I did not decide that. I refused to decide that, because I thought I had no jurisdiction.

The House divided on the amendment which was lost on the following division:

Contents, 8; non-contents, 9.