

House. It was an order of the Committee that was given for the papers some weeks ago; that order covered not particular papers or letters, but all papers, contracts, specifications, plans, accounts, vouchers, and so forth, relating to four large transactions, and extending over a period of twenty years. From my experience of the departments, I venture to say that if any order were given for documents extending over that period of time, there would be no surprise if when we came to examine them we found that a further search would have to be made and further papers obtained. But I submit to the hon. member for Montmorency that if he again finds that to be the case, as is not at all unlikely in view of the circumstances, it would be more convenient for all purposes to bring up matters of that kind in the Committee. Then if it is found that the order of the Committee has not been obeyed, the officers will be called up and put on their guard to be more vigilant; and instead of anyone in the House being subject to suspicion, we shall have the officers before us under oath to say why the papers were not produced and produced before. If such a course is followed, I think feelings of impatience and irritation will be less likely to be excited.

Mr. TARTE. I did more than that. I went myself to Mr. Gobeil four or five days ago. I indicated to him the papers that are missing, and these papers are not yet brought down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the suggestion of the hon. Minister of Justice is a very proper one. It is only the importance of this question that, to my mind, justified its being brought up here to-night at all. These papers were ordered by the Committee, and the proper place to deal with their non-production is in the Committee and not in the House.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am not going to enter into a discussion as to these papers at all, but I would like to say to the Minister of Justice and the Government generally, that I think there is a good deal in the suggestion made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Ives) thus far. I think the importance of this enquiry demands that precedence be given at any cost, even to the delay of ordinary business, to the investigation before the Committee of Privileges and Elections; but, after all, that Committee only comprises forty-two members, and there is no reason why the various committees of this House should not sit in other rooms during a reasonable number of days. If questions arise which absolutely require the presence of Ministers who have to be present at this investigation, these questions might be held over, but I think it is desirable the other committees should sit as well as the Committee on Privileges and Elections. If there is any difficulty with regard to obtaining a sufficiently large room, it might possibly be necessary to poach on the room immediately adjoining this, which is now handed over to gentlemen of the Conservative party; but I think the other committees, and certainly the Public Accounts Committee, should sit even while this investigation is going on, but, of course, in other rooms.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I think the other committees will have to be called.

#### LANGEVIN BLOCK—PAPERS.

Mr. MULOCK. Before proceeding to the Orders  
Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

of the Day, I wish to bring to the attention of the Government the non-production of certain papers ordered some time ago. I refer to the papers connected with what is known as the Langevin Block. The hon. Minister of Public Works has several times promised to have the Order complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER. Were these ordered by the House or the Committee?

Mr. MULOCK. There is an Order both of the House and of the Public Accounts Committee; but, even if the order were only made by the Public Accounts Committee, you will see there must be some way of getting the order of the Committee complied with. We have not had a meeting of that Committee for a month, and, if we cannot ask for the papers until it meets, we may not be able to ask for them at all. I was notified by the clerk yesterday afternoon that these papers had been produced, and this morning I attended before the clerk to examine them. I can only say that there has been, in my judgment, a great deal more attention paid to the non-production than the production of the papers. The most studious efforts have been apparently made to prevent their production. As far as I went, I made a note of a few of the papers that I could see have not been produced and are pertinent to the enquiry, but I am perfectly satisfied that there has not been a proper compliance with the Order of the House or of the Committee.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The deputy of my department has told me that he had sent to the Committee on Public Accounts all the papers that were in the department and were asked for by the Committee. In so far as this House is concerned the hon. gentleman asked for a number of documents and information, which the House granted. I said to the hon. gentleman, and I repeat it now, that it is impossible for my department to comply with the Order of the House so long as the Committee on Public Accounts has the original documents from which we could give the information asked for; and I said to the deputy of my department that whilst he was sending these documents to the Public Accounts Committee he should tell the clerk of the Committee that so soon as the Committee would send back the documents, we would prepare a statement for the House; but we have no double sets of original documents, and therefore cannot comply with the Order of the House until the Public Accounts Committee has returned the originals.

Mr. MULOCK. The documents, the non-production of which I complain of, are not with the clerk of the Public Accounts Committee, but have been withheld from him.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There is no intention on the part of my department or my deputy, who is an honest, straightforward man, to keep away from the Committee or members of the Committee any paper or document that is to be found in my department. If the hon. gentleman will send a list of what he says is missing, and if these papers are to be found in the department they will be sent here. It must have been because the documents could not be found that they have not been sent, but if they are in the department they will be laid on the Table. We have no reason to fear the investigation of the hon. gentleman or the Public Accounts Committee.