

I was struck the other day by the report made to the Board of Internal Economy of the House of Commons by Mr. Achille Frechette. I presume he was authorized to make that report by the Internal Economy Committee. I understand that he was connected with the Translation Branch of the House of Commons, and that he proceeded to Belgium and Switzerland to make some investigations, the results of which are embodied in his report. I shall read only one or two very brief extracts as I do not want to prolong this debate unduly. He said, referring to the Debates:

As is the case in Canada, the debates may be carried on in Belgium and in Switzerland in either or any of the official languages of the country.

In Belgium, where the House is composed of 152 Representatives, and sits from 2 to 5 o'clock p.m., a synoptic report of the debates is published on the same evening. On the third day thereafter, at 8 a.m., a stenographic report is published under the name of *Annales Parlementaires*. These *Annales* contain the speeches in extenso, but only in the language in which they were made. If a member has not furnished his corrections of the stenographic report of his speech within 48 hours, the latter, instead of being published verbatim in the *Annales*, is only inserted in the condensed form as found in the synoptic report, with mention of the fact.

Further on he says:

In Switzerland the stenographers take down only the debates on federal laws, and certain federal *arrêtés* (a term about corresponding to our Orders in Council). These speeches are published, in their own text only, in a *Bulletin Stenographique*, which hardly forms 600 pages at the end of the session. As to the rest, a translator sums up, verbally, in the House, in French if the speech was in German, and in German if it was in French, the conclusions of the different speeches.

It only remains, under this head, to state that the Belgium system, which is much more expeditious than ours, must also be, it seems to me, much less costly, inasmuch as the speeches are published in extenso in their original language only, and that only a resumé thereof is translated for the needs of the day.

When the matter comes before the committee it will be in a position to consider any suggestions made in this report, and I am sure if any hon. gentlemen who are not members of the committee have any representations to make we shall be delighted to have them attend the meetings of the committee, and I can promise, as chairman, that any such representations will be given the most careful consideration.

Mr. A. M. DECHENE (Montmagny): Mr. Speaker, the motion proposed by the hon. member for Chambly-Verchères deserves the attention of both sides of the House. Complaints and whispers very often come

to our ears, but with no effective results. In spite of the acting Premier's good will, we are sorry to state that the French language, under any and every form, is being driven out of the Parliament of Canada and from the different Departments. Wherever we find a French civil servant, whether he speaks the language or he is called upon to either translate or transcribe it, he is left in the lurch or he is most unfairly treated.

This question, Mr. Speaker, requires to be much enlarged upon and I would like to discuss it at a greater length; but, as it is now six o'clock, I would move the House do adjourn.

On the motion of Mr. Déchéne the debate was adjourned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling it six o'clock I desire to point out that resolution No. 12 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Johns and Iberville (Mr. Demers) was not called owing to the fact that he wished to have it placed on the Order Paper for to-morrow, under the heading "Notices of Motions for Production of Papers." The hon. member is in the House and desires to make his motion now.

#### UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF PAPERS.

Mr. DEMERS:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, correspondence, and other papers in the possession of the Government, in connection with the transfer of mail bags from the C.P.R. mail car to the mail car of the Quebec, Montreal and Southern Railway Company, and from the latter to the former, at Iberville Junction, during the period extending from the month of November, 1917, to the month of April, 1918.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question being put, pursuant to rule.

Thursday, March 25, 1920.

The House met at Three o'clock.

#### PRIVATE BILLS.

##### FIRST READINGS.

Bill No. 33, to incorporate International Loan Company.—Mr. Blake.

Bill No. 34, respecting The Montreal and Southern Counties Railway Company.—Mr. Archambault.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

Statement re the Naval Forces of Canada laid on the Table in accordance with the provisions of section 47, chapter 43, 9-10, Edward VII.—Hon. Mr. Ballantyne.