

ments. There has been wire-pulling, and it has influenced gentlemen on both sides. Perhaps this is a little outside the question, but it is an incident which naturally arises when one is discussing the internal economy and the formation of those committees, and I thought, perhaps, it was better, having a pretty large experience in those matters, that I should give my frank and unbiassed opinion. Questions of government policy are not referred to these committees; they are referred to a Committee of the Whole House, where every gentleman can be present. The Banking Committee, the Railway Committee and the Private Bills Committee have only to do with private enterprises, promoted by parties of both political sides, and there is a good deal of lobbying on these occasions, but I cannot see what political question can arise on the Banking and Commerce Committee. It does not seem to me possible, because it is conducted entirely by gentlemen who desire to see the financial affairs of this country managed on a safe and prudent basis. The Committee on Railways is an important committee, in which there is, no doubt, a good deal of canvassing and lobbying, but my opinion is that it rarely divides politically. I cannot now recall to my mind an occasion where a political member of either side sought to induce those who were in sympathy with him to see eye to eye with him. It has not been on political grounds, but rather on the personal desire to secure a majority in favour of the Bill or to defeat the measure. One can hardly conceive a case where any political question can arise in those two committees to which I have referred. On the broad principle of which my hon. friend speaks, there ought to be a fair representation, and I think hon. gentlemen of the House would be disposed to recognize that principle if attention were called to it, but in my judgment the more important point in the formation of those committees is that the provinces should be fairly represented on the committees in proportion to their number. It cannot be supposed for a moment that a gentleman, representing the Liberal party, if he saw a measure was affecting the province from which he came, which he considered was injurious and detrimental to the public interests, would, for political interests, favour a measure not

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otherwise entitled to consideration. I believe the members of this body rise superior to any action of that kind, and so far as private bill legislation is concerned, they are guided by other influences than political questions.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I understand this Chamber may adjourn to-day for a couple of weeks, and I would ask hon. gentlemen if there is any great haste in adopting the report of this committee when we are just about adjourning, and if there is, in the mind of some of our colleagues, a belief that a grievance exists in the formation of this committee which has had but about an hour or so to go through all these committees and make rearrangements, could we not properly consider the situation and the claims of some of the younger members of this House, who think they have not been well treated? I do not intend to supplement the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Marquette in his claim that the minority should have fairer representation on some of those committees, but I think that the minority should have a fair proportion. I have not gone into the names that are on the lists and do not know how the list stands. I will only remark to the hon. Secretary of State that the minority is somewhat interested at times in those committees from the experience I had last year in the Railway Committee, when the majority rejected the petition of the Short Line Gaspé Railway, where the Conservative party stood a unit in favour of Mr. Armstrong's desire to balk the people in that neighbourhood in their desire to have a new railway company. These are the supplementary reasons which should actuate us in seeing that a fair representation is given to the minority. I do not say anything as to the present formation of the committees, but as I see that there is in the minds of some of my hon. friend's a feeling that there can be a better readjustment, why not adjourn the consideration of the report and allow this committee to reconsider its work and see if it could not do better?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I would just point out to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dandurand) that in referring to the Baie Des Chaleurs question, he is speaking under a misappre-