

Debates Committee.

SECOND REPORT

OF

THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 17th September, 1896.

The Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present session, beg leave to submit the following resolution as their Second Report :—

That a complaint was lodged with your Committee by Mr. D. Monet, M.P., against Messrs Lucien Lasalle, Joseph Bouchard, Peter McLeod and J. B. Vanasse, four translators of the Debates of the House of Commons, that they, while in office, took a prominent part in active political strife since 1891.

That notice of said complaint was sent to the above named translators with the request that they furnish your Committee with an explanation. That the four translators appeared before your Committee, and were examined in connection with the said charge.

That Joseph Bouchard admitted he attended three public political meetings during the last election, having a seat on the platform, and that he addressed one of these meetings at Larose's Hall in the city of Ottawa.

That the report of the said meeting, as published in the *Ottawa Daily Citizen* of the 12th June last, and filed with your Committee, stated that Joseph Bouchard addressed the meeting in French and indicated that he strongly supported the fiscal policy of the late Government as well as its policy with regard to the Manitoba school question.

That the said Joseph Bouchard, although he contended that the report of the *Citizen* eulogized too highly his speech, admitted that he advocated the return of the Government's candidate and endorsed the trade policy of the Government as well as its course with regard to the Manitoba school question.

That Peter McLeod admitted that all the parliamentary correspondence which appeared in *Le Trifluvien* over the *nom de plume* of "E. Liane" was written by him.

That a portion of this correspondence was translated and filed with your Committee. That in this correspondence one honourable member of the House of Commons was referred to as a young blockhead, and the Leader of the then Opposition "as the leader of the traitors who had pocketed his honour and dignity, &c., &c."

That J. B. Vanasse admitted the accuracy of the charge made against him of having, on the public platform, referred to the then Leader of the Opposition, and to one of the candidates in the county of Richelieu, as renegades and traitors to their race and religion.

In view of the above related facts, which, in the opinion of your Committee, convict the said Joseph Bouchard, Peter McLeod and J. B. Vanasse of having improperly interfered in politics, your Committee recommend their dismissal from the staff of translators of the debates.

With regard to the case of Lucien Lasalle, a majority of your Committee are not in favour of recommending his dismissal.

Your Committee beg to submit the minutes of proceedings and all documents produced in connection with this case.

All which is respectfully submitted.

P. A. CHOQUETTE,
Chairman.