

get it back in time for daily publication. It is for that reason that that scheme, which has been already discussed, has been left aside, because it would be impossible to have the regular publication of the daily sheet. We know that it would save much of the expense if we could do that, but it would be impossible to do it to the satisfaction of the members, so the corrections must be made only for the revised copy.

Mr. BOWELL. I confess that I foresaw the objection which might be made to this plan. If the committee were to impress upon the members the absolute necessity of their returning the proof-sheet immediately, the delay would not occur. But that delay to which the hon. member refers always does occur, so far as it applies to the corrected report. Now, many of these reports that are sent broadcast throughout the country really do not contain, in many cases, not only the exact words, but even the meaning of the utterances of those who have spoken in this House. In many cases speeches are quoted at election times as having been made by members in Parliament, that are directly opposed to what they really said, either through a mistake of the printer in setting up the copy, or through the reporter failing to catch the particular idea of the speaker. I do not find fault with the reporters, because sometimes when members are speaking there is so much noise, and trouble, and interruption, that it is almost impossible for the reporter to hear correctly what was said. I know that there is a strong feeling arising in the House against the expense attending this official reporting. Although the delays might occur to which my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Desjardins) refers, I think it is much better that those delays should take place than that the errors which occur in the reports of *Hansard* should be circulated throughout the country. I do not think that the country will suffer much by it.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga). It is for the very purpose of meeting these objections that the committee propose, instead of distributing the daily sheet to the public, to wait four or five days and send out only the revised copy. We propose that henceforth there shall be only one copy for the use of members, or about 300 copies in all, and this copy will not be sent out to the country, but will be limited to the use of members; and the edition which will be sent out to the public will have been revised by the members who have spoken.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. I quite appreciate the remarks made by the Minister of Militia with regard to the first copy sent to the printer being correct before it reaches his hand, but he will see the great difficulty which will attend that course. For instance, when the House sits very late at night the speeches would have to be brought in to the members immediately, and they would have to be corrected before the printer could be put in possession of the copy, and the printers would have to set up the matter for publication so as to be delivered to members here at 3 o'clock on the succeeding day. It would be practically impossible to carry out that rule, for the simple reason that after speeches are delivered by members, say, in the course of the afternoon or evening, it often happens that they leave the House and go off by the train, and

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hochelaga).

such delay would be caused in the preparation of the copy that it would be impossible to publish the *Hansard* at the hour mentioned. The suggestion is a good one if it could be carried out, but I think it is impossible to carry it out. I think the determination arrived at by the committee is quite an improvement on the old course. We agree by this report to furnish to the members an original copy of the *Hansard* as printed at 3 o'clock. One single copy is allowed to each member upon which he may make his corrections, and then the additional copies are furnished to him, stitched and cut ready to be sent out corrected, so that when his speech is sent out to the public it is sent in a corrected form, and there is only a delay of about four days. I think the House will agree with the committee that this is a very desirable change to make in the publication of the *Hansard*. I agree with the Minister of Militia that if the other suggestion could be carried out it would be preferable, but I do not think it would be possible to carry that out. I am satisfied that if the House adopt this report it will be a move in the right direction, and be satisfactory to every member of the House.

Mr. DAVIN. I am a member of this committee, but I must say I do not quite agree with the recommendation. Anybody who has gone on a marine excursion knows how completely late newspapers lose their interest. One of the things that makes *Hansard* valuable to the public, in my opinion, is the rapidity with which an approximately correct account of what is said in this House reaches the public through the country press. We have been told in the committee, on the authority of prominent members of this House and prominent members of the committee, that the newspapers would prefer to wait until they get a corrected report. I never met myself a newspaper man that would. I must say that they have just about as good a chance of getting a correct report from *Hansard* as they will from the reporters on the daily papers where the speeches are given in full, and where men have to write under far more exigent conditions than they have to write on the *Hansard*. I may point out that *Hansard* is of this peculiar value at this present time, that it does give to the public an account of what is said in this House. We must remember that since *Hansard* came into existence, or for this cause or for some other reason that I am not aware of, the leading newspapers in this country, such as the *Globe*, the *Mail* and the *Empire*, no longer give the full reports that they used to give 10 or 15 years ago. I remember some 14 years ago that you could take up the *Globe* newspaper and get a fairly full report of what had taken place the night before. The leading men on each side had their speeches reported in full, and those who occupied a less high rank in their respective parties, had a fair summary given of what they said. But we know now that all the leading papers have abandoned that. In the United States the leading newspapers do not report what takes place in Congress, but Congress is in a wholly different position from this Parliament. Congress is not nearly in as close relation with public opinion as the Parliament of Canada, or the Parliament of Great Britain. It is of the utmost importance, in a system of government such as ours, that what is said in this House and what takes place in this House, should get into