

late in the session to undertake the investigation. We have to-day and to-morrow, and it is just possible we may have he day after. I do not see why we should not have some officer from the House of Commons, who knows all the facts, to give evidence before the committee and tell us just how the work is done there and what it costs, and compare it with the cost of the service here. Even if we did make a report this year I do not suppose it would be acted on, but we might get all the information that is to be had and have it classified, and then members would have it before them at the opening of the session next year, and action might be taken.

Hon. Mr. LARIVIERE—I have just one word in answer to my hon. friend. I do not see that it is proper to calculate in dollars and cents the value of the kind of translation that we require for this House. We require the best work, and we expect to pay the best price for it.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—The idea is to get the best work for the least money; that is the proposition.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The cost of translation for the extraordinary session in August last would be only a few dollars. The cost is relative, depending on the number of reports and Bills; if the Bills are short it does not cost so much to translate; if they are voluminous, running from ten to sixty pages the work will cost more. So it is all a relative matter and no committee can get at the bottom of the matter. I agree with the hon. senator from Provencher (Hon. Mr. La Rivière) that this question of translation is one which affects the intellectual standing of Canada throughout the world. Our documents—blue-books, scientific reports, royal reports, governor's speeches, Hansard, and so on—are distributed to probably every legislature throughout the world and to public libraries. What standing would we have in the world's community if a professor of a university or a statesman of a foreign country should find our reports full of errors and bad French or bad English? As the hon. gentleman says, the best talent must be engaged, and you cannot get the best talent by contract or by tender; you must select your men and place them at the head of the translating bureau, just as a rector of a university selects his professors. You cannot get professors by tender, you have to select them from every quarter of the

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton).

earth, because of their fitness for the work of teaching. We must not deal with this matter in any picayune fashion. Our public documents have to go to the world in the purest of English and the purest of French, and that must necessarily cost a little money. You can get men, who profess to be translators, at \$1 a day, but what will their work amount to? You must get the best talent. To translate some documents requires absolute skill, scientific and otherwise; he must have a knowledge of the arts, of business, of finance, a knowledge of everything under the sun in order to translate from one language into another. Where are we going to get men with such attainments and talents? It would not be fair to offer them a paltry salary; the salary should be in keeping with the talent possessed by the translator, just as fees are paid to lawyers according to the amount of talent and knowledge they have of the law, or to medical men for their skill and knowledge. It is the same in the various professions, and Parliament should seek such men. I hope that the hon. member from Provencher will insist on his point, and that he and his friends in this House will see that for translating documents from English into French, which after all is nine-tenths of the work, the best talent shall be employed so that Canada will not be disgraced in the public libraries of Europe or the cabinets and legislatures of other countries.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—This motion seems to have created quite a disturbance in the minds of hon. gentlemen in this House.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR—Might I ask the hon. gentleman what reason there is for proposing to invite tenders for the translators any more than for the other positions in this House.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—I have taken an interest in the Internal Economy Committee, and have been informed that the service in the Senate costs twice as much as in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. GORDON—What does it cost?

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton)—I do not know, but I have had that statement on very good authority, and there must be some ground for it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—We have had, within the last fifteen years, comparative