

Confederation. He hoped that a measure would be introduced, giving to the Senate the same rights and privileges as were enjoyed by the Imperial Parliament.

Hon. Mr. Seymour said he had no objection. It was in the power of the Crown to make the appointment.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

(Debate on Report of Contingent Account Committee resumed.)

Hon. Mr. Price said he had proposed putting a question to the Honourable Postmaster-General, but as he was not in his place, he would merely say he desired to know why the Government had not divided the officers of the two Houses of the Parliament of United Canada between the Legislatures of Ontario and Quebec. Perhaps the Honourable Receiver-General could answer the enquiry.

Hon. Mr. Kenny said he could not speak for the Postmaster-General.

Hon. Mr. Price had observed a disposition to push this report through with something of haste. Now, as it was an important matter, and there was not much else pressing for attention just at present, he thought the House could very well afford to come to its consideration with deliberation and quietness, and he hoped they would do so.

Hon. Mr. Bureau, in French, said the report appeared to him so important that he felt it his duty to propose the adjournment of its further consideration to some other day. This was the first report of the Committee on Contingent Accounts, and it recommended that the whole patronage of the House should be left in its own hands, saving the three Crown officers named, the other offices to become vacant. He did not object to this, but at the same time, thought the report should have gone further, and stated which of the officers and servants would be kept, with the salaries they were to receive, and which were to be dispensed with. If this information had been supplied, then the parties thrown out of employment, could have sought for it in the Legislatures of Toronto and Quebec. The only office alluded to as useless was that of Sergeant-at-Arms, but it occurred to him that there were others quite as useless. At present the pay of the staff amounted to \$40,000 per annum, which probably admitted of reduction.

Evidently the Committee were bent upon economy, and he hoped retrenchment would not be confined to the Senate, but would be carried out in the other branch of Parliament and in the Departments. But reverting to his motion, he would propose an adjournment of the debate, (cries of "no, no,") or if not he would move that the report be sent back to the Committee, with instructions to amend and complete it by supplying lists of the officers and servants to be retained, and of those which were to be dispensed with. ("No, no, go on.")

Hon. Mr. Mitchell after recapitulating the remarks of Honourable Mr. Bureau, said that an adjournment of the debate or the recommendation of the report, would defeat the object intended, which was the economization of funds of the country. The reason why the list of officers to be retained, and of those not to be retained, was not appended to the report was the propriety of having the principle it embodied sanctioned first by the House. It would have been premature to say who were to be retained and who dispensed with until it was known whether the principle laid down was adopted. The House had now been three weeks sitting, but with the exception of the three or four officers named in the report, it had in effect no staff, and it was not to be supposed that it could charge itself with the retention of all those who had belonged to the Legislative Council under a former state of things. The Dominion had to commence with a clean sheet, and wherever reductions could be effected, with due regard to the necessities of the public service, they would have to be made. Let the report be adopted, and where the old officers could be retained consistently with proper economy, it would no doubt be done. It would be for the Committee to decide what staff should be required. No unnecessary or undue rigour of economy would be attempted, but all proper consideration would be given to the old officers and servants. He hoped the honorable member would withdraw his motion, and the House might rely upon the Committee for discharging their duty fairly and faithfully.

Hon. Mr. Seymour said the Committee were now engaged in making enquiries preparatory to presenting a second report, in which the information desired by the honourable member (Honourable Mr. Bureau), would be supplied. The three first clauses had been adopted at an early day. The staff considered necessary to carry on the business of the House efficiently would be recommended, but before that could