

mile, and they are practically carried for nothing.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—What about the binding?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—No it is not the binding at all. Ever since the Hon. Mr. Fielding introduced the system, all railways which receive subsidies of \$3,200 a mile, or \$6,400 a mile if they earn the double subsidy, are obliged to carry and do all the business for the Government at a rate that will equal the interest on the subsidy, which would be much more than the extra expense to the Government of sending out the books. I quite agree that many of those books are useless and are rather an inconvenience in one's office, and many of them have to be thrown away, because nobody will take them. Of course, no one would be entitled to get a copy under the proposed plan unless he made application before the books were printed, when it might be rather difficult to know whether one wanted the book or not. This question is not new. It has been up in this House and in the other House very often, but nobody has been able to devise any plan to meet the difficulty since the inception of Confederation. The idea of having a catalogue so that members would not be obliged to receive books, and also limiting the supply to one copy instead of sending two or three copies, is very good; but those members of the House who have been newspaper men and interested in the printing business will know that after a book has been printed, the added expense of a larger issue is only the weight of the extra paper used—so much a pound.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—That must cost considerable, because an immense amount of paper is consumed. Then what about the binding?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—The binding of those sessional papers is a very expensive part of the work, and if it were the wish of this House to have it dispensed with, that expense would be saved. Like the hon. member from Alberta, I have never looked at those sessional papers in my 16 or 17 sessions in Parliament, and if the binding could be dispensed with I think we would save a lot of money. So far as I can see those books are not of much use.

Hon. Mr. POWER—There is just one point which the hon. member has left out of sight. It is not merely, as he represents it, the additional cost of printing a certain number of copies and of carrying them in the trains, but there is the fact that a great

many of those blue-books are duplicates, to all intents and purposes, of other blue-books which are issued in the same year. For instance, the Department of Trade and Commerce is practically duplicating the work of the Customs and Inland Revenue Departments, and not only is there a very considerable expense involved in printing those documents—but every month each member receives two copies of a good sized volume of the unrevised Table of Exports and Imports during the previous month—I think that it is quite unnecessary, and that a summary such as is given in the Gazette, of the Banking Returns, would satisfy all reasonable people. But there is the other fact, that the Department of Public Printing is occupied in preparing those unnecessary reports while very necessary papers, such as our statutes, are delayed for months. The laws that we pass here govern the whole country from the date of prorogation, yet as a rule it is impossible to get a copy of those statutes for about four months after prorogation. I presume that the reason which would be given is that the wheels of the Printing Bureau are blocked by what I look upon as comparatively useless returns. It is true that something has been said at different times about this question, but no honest businesslike effort has ever been made, that I know of, to get the question settled on a sensible and businesslike basis.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL—With the consent of the House, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Ross, I should like to move that this resolution be referred to the Committee on Printing who are members of this Chamber to make a report which, if adopted, could be taken up with the joint committee of both Houses on printing. I am sure if this resolution is carried it will give an opportunity for those senators who are members of the Joint Printing Committee, to hear any member of this Chamber who wishes to appear before them and present his views of what might and should be done, and they may be able to report a scheme which, if the Senate approves of it, can be referred through our members of the Joint Committee to the joint committee of both Houses. In that way we should get some relief, and a change which will be beneficial.

The motion was agreed to.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL UNDER DOMINION LANDS ACT.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved the following resolution: