

House have in the past offered to resign their seats, provided they would be filled by French Canadian members of the other House who would be chosen by the Government to represent our nationality here, but we were laughed at in this, as has always been our fate when we raised this question. But I may tell the Government that so long as there is a member of the French race in this House), and while the present disregarding of our rights continues, those members will still be found vindicating the just claims of our Province. Unfortunately we have not the advantage of speaking our mother tongue, and possibly our efforts to make ourselves understood in English may not be very pleasant to some members of this body; but we are not here to do only those things which are pleasant, we have to perform a duty, and we shall not fail in it. I regret to have spoken at such length, and thank hon. gentlemen for the patient hearing which has been accorded me.

The motion was agreed to

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved that the said Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General by such members of this House as are members of the Privy Council.

The motion was agreed to.

SENATOR DICKSON.

REPORT.

THE SPEAKER submitted to the Senate a report from the Clerk stating that the seat of the Hon. Walter Hamilton Dickson, now upon the list of Senators, had become vacant in consequence of the absence of the Senator referred to having extended beyond the period of two years—such absence having been occasioned by ill-health.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—This is a notice which the Clerk of the Senate is obliged, under our rules, to present at the opening of each session. I regret very much that it should be his duty to report to us the absence, for two sessions, of our colleague and friend, Mr Dickson, and I

regret still more to learn from private sources that this continued absence is owing to such ill-health that we can hardly hope to hear that our friend's condition will so far improve as to enable him to attend to his duties in this House. We all have known Mr. Dickson for so long, and his genial presence and cheery laughter through the corridors has been so familiar to members of this House, that I am sure all share with me in the regret that we cannot hope for his presence among us at the next session of Parliament. He has been in Parliament for many years—certainly as far back as 1840, and perhaps earlier. He had a seat in the Legislative Assembly of the former Province of Canada. He occupied that seat for many years, and I remember well the weight which was then attached to his position and to his utterances in Parliament. Few men occupied at that time a position which gave more promise of a distinguished Parliamentary career, and I think that promise would have been amply realized if our friend and colleague had been willing to devote more time and industry to his Parliamentary duties than was his disposition to do. He was a man of singular ability and facility of speech, and his resources in argument were great; in fact there was everything in his manner calculated to distinguish him in Parliament, if he had only had that humble quality of industry, which has conduced in a great degree to the success of less able men in Parliament, and had devoted his time and attention to the work of legislation. I am exceedingly sorry that we shall perhaps not again hear his hearty voice and have his genial presence among us. I beg to move that the report of the Clerk be referred to the Committee appointed to consider the orders and customs of this House and the privileges of Parliament, the Committee to meet to-morrow at a quarter to three o'clock in the Senate Chamber.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I cannot let this occasion pass without saying a word upon the subject of the motion, which must be a painful one to us all. The gentleman affected by that resolution is a neighbour and intimate friend of mine, and I regret exceedingly that his failing health had placed him in such a position that he necessarily falls under what must be con-