

the Committee on Railways, by five additional members. That report will be presented, and, I hope, adopted also, to-day. "I thought it was only right to make that explanation in view of the fact that I am asking that the House adopt the first report without objection in order that the committees may meet, appoint their chairmen and get ready for work before the House adjourns.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. TEMPLEMAN presented the second report of the Committee of Selection and moved that the rules be suspended.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. TEMPLEMAN moved that the report be now adopted

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not propose to move against the adoption of the report but I wish to express the feeling that the committees which are named are already too large. As it is now, the Committee on Railways is composed, practically of two-thirds of the members of the House. The object of sending any measure to a committee is that it shall receive that careful and detailed consideration which it could not have in a large body like the House; and when the committee is enlarged to the degree to which it is now proposed to enlarge the committee it is practically almost the House itself dealing with the matter which has been referred to the committee. I wish to express the view that the change is not a desirable one, and that the Committee on Railways is already too large. In former years when that committee numbered thirty or thirty-five members, the members of the committee sat around the table and did business in the business-like way in which the directors of a railway or an insurance company or other business organizations do business, but with a committee of fifty it is impossible to do that; and every hon. gentleman who wishes to make no matter how small a comment on the matter before the committee, is obliged to stand up and make a speech. When that is the case we know that business does not advance with the rapidity with which it ought to advance, and it practically comes to this, that in order to secure careful consideration for any bill which is before the committee, the measure must be referred to a sub-committee;

and to call the Railway Committee a committee is merely a misnomer.

The motion was agreed to.

DISPOSITION OF ROOMS TO SENATORS.

MOTION

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved :

That the disposition of the rooms attached to the Senate Chamber to members having no rooms, be referred to the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts, when constituted, for allotment to senators, without report.

He said: If this resolution meets with the approbation of the House, I shall move it now. It is necessary that the control should be somewhere. The Contingent Committee are a representative body, and they can select three or five gentlemen who will make the necessary arrangements for those members of the Senate for whom no provision has been made up to the present time. I presume it will be a direction to the committee that hon. gentlemen who are already in their rooms will not be disturbed. It is not the intention to interfere with them.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Before the motion is adopted I think the House will agree with me that it ought to be made a little broader, because I think arrangements could be made by a sensible committee in the allotment of rooms that would be agreeable to all honourable gentlemen.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not think it is necessary to make any change in the resolution. I have no doubt when the committee go to work they will find no difficulty in making arrangements for senators who have no rooms without disturbing senators who have rooms, unless the senators who have rooms are willing to go elsewhere, and if a change is made with the consent of the senators who now occupy places in the rooms, there is no necessity for any authority from the House.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—If I may be permitted I would suggest that the matter be referred to the hon. Speaker of the House. He is the proper authority.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I think the suggestion made by my hon. friend is a very good one.