

things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

OFFICIAL DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved :

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates in this House during the present session with power to report from time to time, to be composed of: Messrs. Beausoleil, Béchard, Cameron, Charlton, Davin, Hazen, Innes, LaRivière, Lépine, Prior, Scriver, Somerville, Taylor, Weldon, and White (Cardwell).

Mr. LAURIER. Is it the same committee as last year?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The same committee.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT OF LIBRARIANS.

The Joint Report of the Librarians of Parliament was laid on the Table of the House.—(Mr. Speaker.)

ADJOURNMENT — THE NEW BRUNSWICK JUDICIARY.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns I would invite the right hon. gentleman, the Minister of Justice, to make a statement respecting certain changes that have taken place in the judiciary of the Province of New Brunswick. Under ordinary circumstances I would not, so early in the session, bring this matter to the attention of Parliament, but the right hon. gentleman is aware, and the House and the country are aware, that the changes which have just taken place—or one change at least which has taken place—has been attended and surrounded by circumstances of an extremely grave and serious character. In this country, Sir, we have been accustomed heretofore to boast that, whatever charges may have been made or bandied about by politicians from one political party to another as to political malversation in office, yet, so far as the bench of the country is concerned, it was, at any rate, pure and above suspicion. The hon. Minister of Justice will recollect that some months ago—I think it is six months ago—one of the leading newspapers of St. John in a doubled lead editorial preferred charges of a very grave and serious character against one of the hon. judges of the Supreme Court of that province, charges so grave and so serious that if they were true, of course all further confidence must cease in the administration of justice by that gen-

tleman. The public awaited in breathless silence and suspense the action that would be taken with respect to these charges. The charges were not made in an indirect way; they were direct, positive charges of malversation, and the bar of the different provinces—I speak more especially of the Maritime Provinces—listened from day to day to hear the action that would be taken to remove the cloud which hung over, for the first time, one of the justices of the Supreme Court of the province. No action was taken. It is well known that the judges of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick at least had not been averse in the past to maintain what they imagined was their dignity, by taking proceedings in the nature of attachments for alleged contempt. It was believed that possibly that course might be resorted to in the instance I have referred to. No course of that kind was taken. After some period of time had elapsed the press generally challenged the action of those implicated who maintained this extraordinary silence, and it was asked whether, if proceedings were not to be instituted for contempt, at least proceedings would not be taken in the nature of a libel suit, in which the truth or falsity of those very grave and serious charges might be proven. It was felt and known, Mr. Speaker, that silence was impossible to be maintained very long. It was known that it was impossible that this House, this Inquest of the Nation, could meet and prorogue without this matter, or this charge, or this alleged blot on the fair escutcheon of our judges being removed or explained away. It has been lately announced in the press that the judge so charged has tendered to the Government of the day his resignation of his judicial position. It is stated, Sir, that the Government have accepted that resignation. I rise to ask for information on these points. I am told, on what I conceive to be fair authority—the right hon. gentleman will correct me if my information is wrong—that the Minister of Justice had this matter specially brought to his attention, not only brought to his attention, I may say, in a public form by reading the press, or having his attention called to the article, but that the incriminated judge also communicated to him with respect to it. I am informed that the whole matter was brought to the right hon. gentleman's attention. I know the jealousy with which the Minister of Justice views the integrity of the bench. I have confidence in him in that respect, however little confidence I may have in him politically—

Mr. FOSTER. Just saved himself.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I did not save myself "just." I saved myself wholly. I desire to say that this matter is not a mere political squib. I am not speaking for political effect; I am speaking of a matter which every hon. member in this House, on both sides, will recognize as exceedingly