

Mr. GERVAIS. This analytical index was first prepared and published in the year 1904 at the special request of a great many members of this House. It was prepared both in French and English, but has only been distributed during the last three months. It has been found very well prepared, and of great usefulness to many members of this House. During the present session many members have come to us who compose the Debates Committee, and have requested us to continue this work for the present year, and for future sessions. I may state that it is at the special request of a great many members that we now make this second report of the committee. Any one who has read the analytical index, either in English or French, has found it a work well prepared, and of great practical utility. Many members have found from experience that it is somewhat tedious to go through four or five volumes of 'Hansard' in order to get the information they desire. When one has in his hands the analytical index we are now making, he will be able to find in a few minutes what any member of the House has said, and when he has said it, during the session, and on every topic of general discussion. Any one who has examined the index will at once see that it is of a character that must prove very useful to all hon. members. At any rate, I may say that the committee make this report at the special request of a great many members, I think over one-half the members of the House of Commons.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). In 1904, the Debates Committee, for some reason best known to themselves, abandoned the old practice of indexing the 'Hansard' and simply included in the last volume the index which had previously appeared in all the volumes. I have no doubt it was for that reason that the analytical index now referred to was prepared, and no doubt it would be very useful if we continued the index in the 'Hansard' volumes as it was in 1904. At that time when you wanted to find anything in the 'Hansard' you had to examine the whole number of volumes for the year, and for that reason the index was objectionable. The members generally objected to that form of index, and we got it restored to the old form, so that now the complete index appears in every volume of the debates for the session. That being the case, I see no occasion or necessity for the analytical index the Debates Committee now refers to. For my part I shall oppose it, because it is quite unnecessary, since each volume of the 'Hansard' now contains a full index and one that answers all purposes.

Mr. GERVAIS. I trust that the members of this House will compare the two indexes. There is what we call the ordi-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

nary index and there is the analytical index. There is a great deal of difference between them. The ordinary index is too short and is deficient in many respects. The analytical index should prove to be of very great practical use. I had many copies of the index distributed amongst the members of the House yesterday. And one can see the difference between them and he will see that the ordinary index is not in some respects a proper index, as it does not give a complete analysis of speeches but a mere list of names and subjects.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend behind me (Mr. Ingram) has referred to what took place last year. I remember that when I came to look at last year's Hansard, or that of the year before, I found that in order to get, for instance, the main topics that a man had touched upon you would have to send, if there were five volumes, for the whole five volumes because the index in each particular volume only gave what was touched upon in that particular volume. The old index gave you in each volume everything contained in all of the volume. It became perfectly intolerable when you had to send for five volumes of Hansard before you could find out what had been said on any particular subject. My hon. friend and myself made a strong plea to have it restored to the old form. Now I have been told that it has been restored to the old form. If so it seems to me that we have all that is required. What I would suggest is that we should allow the report to remain on the table until hon. members have had an opportunity of looking at the analytical index so that we can see what it is going to be. If it is going to be a great advantage \$1,500 a year is not too much to pay for it.

Mr. H. BOURASSA (Labelle). If the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) had read the analytical index he would have found out, as I have had occasion to find out, that it is very different from the present index even as restored in its old form. The present index is simply a list of the subjects that are discussed by every member of the House and a list of the members with every subject upon which they have spoken. But, take, for instance, the debates that take place on motions in amendment to the motion to go into supply; it is perfectly impossible by looking at the present index to know not only exactly but even in a general way the subjects or the general tendency of the speeches that have been made by different members. The analytical index is not only an index of all the subjects that have been touched upon it is also an analysis of the speeches made by every member so that any one who wants to consult that index can find out what has been the general tendency of the speeches or the main points that have been touched upon by a member who has spoken. The neces-