

identified has decried the Senate, charging this House with inefficiency and extravagance—representing it as utterly useless in the country. Time and again have I seen such statements in the Opposition press. All this is fully met by the report that we have before us. Whether those apartments now occupied by the Usher of the Black Rod and the House-keeper should be taken depends on how they are to be used. If they are to be used by the House of Commons I am opposed to it. We need more room on this side for the accommodation of members of the Senate.

HON. MR. MILLER—The report provides that our rooms shall be under the control of the Contingencies Committee of our House.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Then it is all right.

HON. MR. DEVER—The committee certainly emanated, not from the Government or supporters of the Government, but from the Opposition. I believe the Opposition have been making it a standing subject for their speeches. We find that the leaders of the Opposition are perpetually carping at the Senate, and their organs follow the same policy. If there is a feeling in this country against the Senate I think it comes with a bad grace from the leader of the Opposition to state that that feeling originated with the Government or its supporters. On the contrary, I assert here, as far as my knowledge goes, that it is caused by the continual attacks upon the Senate which are made by the leaders of the Opposition and their organs.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I said that the committee originated with the Government.

HON. MR. DEVER—The argument of the hon. gentleman was that the Government and the country are opposed to the Senate. I say, if there is any opposition shown by the country, or any part of it, to the Senate, we have to thank the Opposition leaders in Parliament and their organs for it. Whenever they want a subject for discussion they always make an attack upon the Senate, and to that cause we may attribute any unpopularity of which we may be the subject.

HON. MR. KAULBACH.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I do not propose to go into a discussion of the report now; but the remarks which have fallen from the hon. member from Ottawa seem to me to need some notice from a member of the committee, as I was, having heard these remarks and being satisfied that they are not founded upon fact. The origin of this inquiry has been wrongly attributed to the Government, as though there was some design on their part and on the part of the House of Commons to encroach on the privileges of the Senate. What are the facts of the case? Is it not a palpable fact that the attention of the country and of the Government has been called to the enormous increase in the expenditure for legislation during the past ten years? That single fact arrested attention. What more proper or desirable than that a committee should be appointed to look into this matter, to see whether it was not practicable to reduce this expenditure? This was the sole motive and intention, I believe, in forming a joint committee to look into the subject. When we met, so far from finding, on the part of members of the House of Commons, or the Government, any desire to encroach on the privileges of the Senate, I contend it was entirely the reverse. It is quite true that it was suggested to have one post office for both Houses, one reading room and one law clerk; but these suggestions were not made with the intention or desire of depriving this House of its privileges and advantages, but to see whether it was practicable or not. No sooner were the views of the members of the Senate advanced than they were at once assented to and adopted. There was not the slightest attempt made by the members of the House of Commons to gainsay the arguments brought by the members of the Senate, but they were promptly accepted. It was demonstrated that economy, diligence and care had been exercised by the Senate, and that it was impossible to lessen the expenditure by combining the offices, as had been suggested. So far from there being a desire to deprive the Senate of its privileges, the thing was discussed in the fairest, most equitable and generous manner possible. I attended every meeting, heard all that was said and gave particular attention to every suggestion. Some of the suggestions came from