

in the papers, because at times the press report is somewhat limited. If we are paying a fixed sum, I think we should get a fixed space, half a column or whatever may be considered reasonable. It should not be left to the papers themselves; there should be some reason in it. At times the report is a mere fragment if there is other interesting news to fill up the papers, so that our report simply depends upon what space the newspaper people have at their command at the moment.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—The hon gentleman knows better than I do that every session there is a certain amount of work which has to be done in advance by the committees. It is only a few days ago that a committee of this House had to make a report and order stationery supplies of all kinds in advance. It was necessary, in this case, to know at the opening of the session whether Mr. Smith would remain with us or not, so that we were obliged to decide the question before the close of this parliament, as it was decided two years ago for last year. It is customary for those committees to report in advance on such matters as have to be settled before the session begins, and this is one of them, the same as the supply of stationery.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no case where we did it with a new parliament coming in. We may have done it from one session to another with the same committee.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There is a great deal of force in what the hon. member from Ottawa says, and if we had any control over those newspapers to compel them to give half a column to reports of our proceedings, we could make that stipulation, but I know from personal investigation that the reporter has supplied a very fair synopsis of the proceedings of the Senate—a synopsis that would have occupied from a half to three-quarters of a column, and sometimes a whole column. That has been handed to the representatives of the press here, and they have cut it down to suit themselves, so that we have no control over that matter at all. Not having any control, and not having power to compel the publication of the proceedings, of course it was a very fair question to discuss whether we should continue it, but there is this fact beyond a

a doubt, the employment of a special reporter, for the newspapers, upon our staff, has called public attention to our proceedings to a much greater extent than had been the case before. In many cases, where there was really what might be considered a debate that affected the general interests of the country, I have seen two or three column reports of the Senate proceedings in the press. Besides, during the time that we have had this reporter attached to the staff, a great deal more attention has been paid by the editors of newspapers to the Senate, and you will find a very large number of newspapers during the last two sessions have contained editorials, some of course adverse, others again approving of the conduct of the Senate, and in fact they have come to the conclusion that the Senate is not quite so effete as they used to represent it to be. On the whole, I think it is a very good arrangement, and if we could only induce the newspapers to devote a little more time and attention to the utterances of senators I am quite sure the members of this House would do as much towards moulding public opinion as the members of the lower House. Those are the particular reasons why I shall support the report of the Debates Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

## HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS OF MONTREAL BILL.

### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (110) "An Act respecting the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal."

The bill was read the first time.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL moved the second reading of the bill. He said:—In moving the second reading of the bill, I might repeat to a certain extent the few words I uttered yesterday in reference to the measure. It is simply to enable the Governor General in Council to advance to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal a sum amounting to \$2,000,000 in order that they may have the advantage of as cheap money as it is possible to obtain, and that can only be done by the government's endorsement or by the government borrow-