

"Why does not the press publish the reports of our summaries daily?" The answer was that if the papers are short of space they will leave aside things that they think of secondary importance, and give more space to the Commons report if the debate there seems to be more important and more interesting to the public. But he said that if these reports were not circulated our proceedings would not be reported at all. Is it important that the people at large should be informed of what takes place in the Senate? My honourable friend from Hastings says that when the public is informed it is usually of things that are not of real importance, but rather of some exciting discussion or a little rumpus that looms up larger than the serious work that is done; and the Senate, which is a revising body and does its work mainly in committees, escapes the attention of the public at large. I recognise that; but men who are interested in the legislation of this Parliament gradually recognise the importance of a revising body such as this second Chamber, and we must rely upon that opinion permeating the country to give the public a true realization of the importance of a second chamber.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: A capital argument, provided it could be utilized.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Of course, we cannot force the newspapers to publish every summary of our daily work; but, if the honourable gentlemen of the Senate will bear with me, I would suggest that we try to bring into this Chamber some work which will effectively draw the attention of the public to the usefulness of this Chamber and the work it can do.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: We have been agitating that for the last thirty years.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have several times suggested that we amend our Senate rules in order to allow a minister of the Crown, sitting in the other Chamber, to come into this Chamber and initiate or explain his own legislation. This is done in every Parliament of Europe except, I think, the House of Commons and the House of Lords in Britain. The House of Lords in past centuries would not think of allowing a commoner to enter their sacred precincts; but we feel that we are of the ordinary clay, and that it would not be offensive to any member of the Senate to see a cabinet minister come into this Chamber, propose his

legislation, and participate in the debates, without voting, inasmuch as he has no seat. What would be the effect? Very often in the House of Commons there is a long debate on a question which holds up the entire legislation of Parliament for weeks. As a minister of the Crown desires to put his own stamp on legislation emanating from his department, he quite naturally prefers to propose it in the Chamber in which he has a seat, and he sometimes waits for weeks in the House of Commons while a debate is going on for an opportunity to bring in his legislation. If he could come into this Chamber and initiate his legislation here, we would not then need a third reporter to make a summary of our proceedings, for the whole press gallery would file in here. If that were done it would have the effect of apportioning the work more equitably between the two Houses; it would relieve the representative of the Government in this House, who has his hands full with Bills from all departments; and we would have the decided advantage of being able to deal with those Bills in the early part of the session, instead of being overwhelmed with work during the last days of the session.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: We have been listening to speeches of that kind every session for the last fifteen years, and nothing has ever resulted from them. The matter just discussed has nothing whatever to do with the question before the Senate at the present moment. Let me ask if this Senate approves of the payment of \$20 a week to a reporter for doing nothing during parts of the session when the Senate is not actually sitting; that is, one-half of what is paid to him during the actual sitting.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: You cannot secure a properly-qualified reporter for the session if during our adjournments, long or short, his salary is held up. Under the present arrangement the reporter is given a weekly payment, and when we adjourn his weekly pay is cut in two. We felt that because we adjourned for a few weeks we should not require him to hunt for his salary in the meantime.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: I would like to see some of the work that is done, because there is an impression either that the work when done is absolutely refused by the press, or that it is not done at all.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It is in the Clerk's office.