

and in a manner in which the Committee has thought just. The case of another portion of the official staff is stated by the hon. member for Montreal East, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse. Well, the Committee say that they are quite prepared to consider that case and to deal with the whole subject. Let them deal with it; but let us, I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Public Works, dispose of the case which is now before us.

Mr. BECHARD. My hon. friend from Bellechasse, if I understood him correctly, said that the members of the Committee seemed to be afraid when the question of the French translators came before the Committee. I think my hon. friend is mistaken; we are not afraid to take up that question. What should we be afraid of? The English members of the Committee have always been most courteous to the French members. But last year we adopted the present system of translating the *Debates*, because we thought that under it the work would be more efficiently done than before, and this year we are making an experiment of that system. For my part, I think it is a great improvement upon the system we had last year. We have a better translation. It is not a question as to whether we shall have the *Debates* translated or not. I believe that is a settled question; it is admitted that the *Debates* must be translated for the benefit of a large portion of the people of Canada, and that being the case, care should be taken to have the work done by the best men. To do the work of translation properly, the service of literary men of the highest order are required. When you read a book translated from English into French, you must notice that it has been translated, not by the first comer, but by a man of ability and great literary power; and the same observation holds good with reference to works translated from French into English. In choosing, last year, the translators of the *Debates*, we selected men who are in the habit of writing often their own language, who write in the newspapers, and who, therefore, could be relied on as men most capable of performing this work with the greatest efficiency. To be an editor of, or a writer on a newspaper requires great ability and a thorough good education; and I repeat, therefore, that the translators of the *Debates* must be men of great ability and learning, and, possessing such qualifications, they ought to be well paid. This question has not come before the Committee. We are making the experiment of a new system, and when we find out the precise number of translators necessary to do the work efficiently, I am sure the Committee will be united in the opinion that the full number necessary should be appointed, and I am also confident there will be no great division of sentiment in the Committee as to the rewarding in a worthy manner those gentlemen who are appointed to translate the work. It is true that no petition has been received from the French translators for an increase, but should the application be made I am sure the Committee will give such application the greatest consideration.

Mr. CARON. I do not see that any attempt has been made to criticise or blame the action of the Committee. The Committee may have been very judicious in acting as they did, in increasing the pay of the stenographers; no doubt at all the class of men employed reporting the *Debates* certainly deserve very good remuneration. I think also the suggestion made by the hon. Minister of Public Works that the report be laid on the Table until the other matter can be considered at the same time. It may be that no representations or complaints have been made by the French translators officially in the Committee, but I know that representations have been made by the translators that the remuneration they are getting is below what it should be. My hon. friend has referred to the requirements of the translators in order to fill their position as it should be filled. I must say that the French transla-

Mr. BLAKE.

tors are perfectly qualified for the work; and it seems to me that when the question of increasing the remuneration of the other branches of that service is considered, the claims of the French translators should also be considered. I have no doubt, by allowing the report to stand over, their claim, when the matter is brought under the consideration of the Committee, will be considered and justice done.

Mr. BERGIN. I was very sorry to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot). In those remarks, he did great injustice to the members of the *Debates* Committee. The whole Committee without exception have been anxious, from the beginning, that every justice should be done to the French translators and the French stenographers, and to such an extent have we been governed by this feeling, that upon almost every occasion we have left the selection of the French stenographers and translators to the French members of the Committee, knowing full well that they were the best judges of the qualifications of these gentlemen. The hon. member for Bellechasse seemed to think that no other interest should be consulted in the translation of these *Debates* than the French interest. Does he forget that most important speeches are made here in English, and that the gentlemen who make them are interested in seeing that the reports of their speeches go correctly translated to the people of Quebec—that our French brethren should understand perfectly what we do here, that no weak or incorrect translation of what we say should be presented to them, for we are anxious to stand well in the eyes of the people of Quebec and not to be misrepresented through any paltry chicanery on the part of the *Debates* Committee. We have acted throughout with the determination to do full justice both to the English and the French members, and if we have erred at all, it has been perhaps in going beyond what we were absolutely required to do in the interests of the French population. I do not regret, but on the contrary, am most pleased that we did so act, and I think we deserve credit instead of being charged, as we have been by the hon. member for Bellechasse, with being actuated by any other spirit.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). After the statements of the hon. Minister of Public Works and the hon. Minister of Militia, I presume that the sense of the House is that this report should lie on the Table to be dealt with when we bring up another report. I rather regret that decision; I think the two subjects are entirely distinct; there is no connection between the two in any shape, but, as the mouthpiece of the Committee, I would like to know if I am correct in assuming that it is the sense of the House, in adopting this suggestion, that the French translators should be paid a higher salary than they are now paid, because that is rather an important question for us to understand. At this moment we have, I believe, applications from three or four gentlemen, each of whom, I think, is quite or about as well qualified for the work as the present translators; that is to say, all have had the same press training, all have been in the habit of writing constantly their own language. These gentlemen are applicants at this moment for employment on the translating staff, and the Committee have never heard from the translators any suggestion that they are dissatisfied with the remuneration they are receiving. The translator before the last who was appointed, Mr. Remi Tremblay, who is an exceedingly valuable translator, who translates with great fluency both from French into English and from English into French, was a Sessional translator when he was appointed to this position, and as a Sessional translator his remuneration would have been a little over half what he gets for the work he is now engaged on. At the same time, if it is the sense of the House that the French translators should be paid a higher salary than that which has been already recommended to the House and adopted by the House, it is im-