

Charles Billy, and W. A. Hall, Pembroke, \$48,259.10; Kenneth McLaggan, St. Marys, N.B., John T. McBean, Nashwaak Bridge, E. A. Bell, Fredericton, N.B., \$47,525.90; John W. McManus, Co., Ltd., Memramcook, N.B., \$46,091; Messrs. Soper and McDougall, Ottawa, \$45,866.60.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. Soper and McDougall, Ottawa, for \$45,866.60, being the lowest.

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS TO MEMBERS.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL moved:

That in the opinion of the Senate it is advisable that a different method of distributing official publications to the members be adopted.

He said: The present method of distributing official publications is such as to cause a great deal of embarrassment to the members themselves. They have to receive so many different publications, and such a variety of single copies of them, that they cannot possibly preserve them and they must be carried away as junk. I quite recognize that there are some official publications which each member wishes to have, and which indeed he could hardly do without. We have an instance of that. The last one I noticed was a white book sent around to all the members containing the official documents with regard to the diplomatic actions during the time preceding the war by the French Government, and there is a number of documents of that kind which of course we all wish to receive, but my object in bringing this matter to the attention of the members of this House is that, in addition to these, there are a great many publications to which hon. gentlemen cannot give proper attention, such as the ordinary blue-book, the departmental report, of which we get two or three copies. In addition to all this, we have the sessional papers supplied us in bound form, which amounts to some 30 or 40 volumes every year. It is quite impossible to keep housing those year after year, and it would take a large museum for every member, to store these official documents in. They are well bound and too valuable to be thrown away, but there might be some other method arranged whereby hon. gentlemen could have access to any of those documents that they may require, and not be over-burdened by an excess of publications for which they cannot possibly find room. My object is not to give to the House any idea which I may have as to how this difficulty might be remedied, but rather, if the mo-

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

tion passes, that the subject should be presented to the Printing Committee, so that they may take the matter into their consideration and perhaps suggest some remedy. It has already been proposed by the hon. gentleman from De Lorimier, that a better method would be to send a catalogue of all the publications issued by the Government annually and each member could indicate each and all the publications he desired to have. I quite approve of that method. I think it is a good one, although I am not proposing it now. If this resolution passes, I shall move that the matter be referred to the Printing Committee.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—The hon. gentleman from St. John deserves the thanks, not only of this House but of this country, for bringing this matter before the House. There has been a great waste of public money in the publishing of blue-books. I receive hundreds and hundreds of them; but nobody wants them. If we send them out to the people, they do not read them. Judging by the quantity I get myself, there must be tons and tons of blue-books published every year which nobody thinks of reading. Then, again, after the first distribution of blue-books, the same documents come in bound form, all of which must have cost this country a great deal of money. I have been about twenty years in Parliament, between this House and the other, and I do not think I ever looked inside of one of those yellow bound books yet. Most of them are only good for lighting fires. The only blue-books I look into are the Public Accounts, the Trade and Commerce reports and the Auditor General's Report; but after I have received the first issue of the blue-books I do not want the bound copy. One time I had an accumulation of them and tried to give them to farmers, but they would not take them. I then tried libraries, but they would not receive them, and the only use I could make of them was for lighting the furnace. If the matter were brought to the attention of the powers that be there would be a great saving in the public service from the discontinuance of the printing of those books.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Those books have to be printed anyway, and the extra expense of the larger issues is only the weight of the paper. Some may think that the carriage of these books is very expensive, but they are carried by the Post Office Department, which has a contract with the railway companies, paying only so much a