

Mr. BOSWELL said he hoped the matter would be referred to a select committee.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said that he was opposed to paying Reporters; but he believed there was a very great distinction between paying Reporters, and thereby giving to their reports the sanction of the House, and taking a certain number of newspapers for the correctness of the debates in such case, the Reporter would be himself responsible.

Capt. STEELE rose and said that to him the question of facilitating the publication of the debates was of some consequence, representing as he did the backwoodsmen of the country, and he would be glad to see those hon. members of the frontier towns, to whom and to whose constituents it was of less consequence, give way to some motion which should enable those less favored than those hon. gentlemen to have the benefit of reading the proceedings and debates which occurred in that house.

Mr. JOHNSON was desirous that the question might be postponed that they might ascertain the cost of these newspapers. He had no idea of lavishing the money of their constituents; still, a work of this kind ought to be supported.

Mr. VICEA observed that it would be an extremely dangerous precedent.

Mr. NEILSON said he had read some of the debates as published in the Mirror of Parliament, and he noticed that they had been very fairly reported. The paper he thought should receive encouragement, but the better mode of ascertaining and deciding upon the question would be by referring the matter to a select committee. He would, however, observe that it is of far less consequence to their constituents to be informed of what they say than of what they do.

Mr. STANSON moved that the matter be referred to a select committee, which was ordered after some further brief discussion, in the course of which Sir Allan McNab rose and said he hoped the motion would prevail. The conveniences for admitting the public to be present at the bar of the house were very limited, and he for one was very desirous that the fullest information should be conveyed to the country of the proceedings of that house. He thought it very desirable that the motion should be entertained.

FRIDAY June 25th. Upon the order of the day being read for the appointment of standing committees, the Atty. Gen. OGDEN moved that, if it were possible, the hon. member proceeded to observe, that he looked upon the appointment of standing committees as an absolute departure from the practice of which that house chose to call responsible government.

(Hear.) Here Mr. OGDEN enumerated the various objects for which it had been proposed that these committees should be appointed, and remarked that with one or two exceptions these were subjects for the especial consideration of the government, and ought to be submitted to that house by the minister of the crown. Were it otherwise the responsibility attached to power would be taken out of their hands, and placed in the hands of certain members of that house to be named by the house itself. He would maintain that if they were to have the responsibility, the power must rest with them also, and consequently the power of deciding upon the nature and character of those measures of public utility which it was their peculiar duty to introduce to the house, and upon those measures the house would be entitled to pronounce judgment, and upon that division would the standing of the advisers of his Excellency be determined.

(Hear, hear, hear.) Hard indeed would be the case if they were to sit in that house as responsible servants of the crown, if the conducting the public business were to devolve on others than themselves. They were by no means desirous of taking from that house the privilege of amending measures which came before them to that extent to which the ministers of the crown could coincide with them, and whenever they go beyond that, upon those measures of public utility which it would be the duty of ministers to introduce, then would there be a collision between that house and those ministers, and then it would become their duty to make room for others who might possess the confidence of the house. (Hear, hear, hear.) As responsibility had been asked for in that house according to the principles of the British Constitution, the house should at least be willing to allow them the privileges enjoyed by the English ministry, of proposing those measures to which he had already referred. He felt satisfied that the house would accede to this proposition, and not fly in the face of the established practice in this respect.

In a neighboring country, where the Government was not represented in the Legislature by its officers, he was aware that the practice is different. There, however, the advisers of the Government are placed in office for the term of four years, but here the officers of the Government are not in office for four months. (Hear, hear.) They are liable to be removed by a breath from the majority of that House. Let us therefore have a fair trial. Let the new system be put in practice, and see how it will operate. (Hear, hear, hear.) The sooner it is decided the better. (Hear, hear, hear.) As a humble servant of the majority, he stood prepared to carry it out. (Hear, hear, hear.)

Mr. THORBURN said he perfectly concurred in what had fallen from the hon. and learned gentleman—that as the officers of the Government were fully determined to act in accordance with the wishes of the House, and to become answerable to the crown and to that country, they should be permitted the privilege of originating those measures which, by the practice in England, ministers were entitled to introduce. The hon. and learned gentlemen who occupied the treasury benches would not find him (Mr. Thorburn) disposed to throw a single straw in their way.

Mr. DURAND said, from what had fallen from the hon. and learned gentleman, the Attorney General, he would suppose that it is his intention to monopolise the whole business of the House. If this was going to be the case, he was convinced that the system of responsible government would not work well.

Mr. JOHNSON desired to put a single question to the hon. and learned gentleman upon the treasury benches, and it should be a reasonable one—Will those gentlemen risk their reputation upon those measures which they themselves introduce? (A laugh.)

Mr. SMALL said, he certainly concurred in what had fallen from the learned Attorney General; and he would also congratulate the country on the declaration which had been made, that responsible government is, at length, conceded to us by the Imperial Parliament, and he thought the House ought not to relieve the officers of the government from that responsibility under which they profess to be, by interfering with the management of those matters which they claim the right of introducing to the House.

Mr. ROMAN said he was perfectly aware that difficulties would arise during the session under the new system. The hon. gentlemen on the treasury benches had undertaken more than they were able to perform; but he hoped that during the recess they would prepare those measures which were necessary against the next meeting of Parliament. For his own part, there were some particular measures which he was desirous of bringing before the House; and if those gentlemen omitted to bring them forward at a proper time, he (Mr. Roman) would certainly not be deterred from bringing them before the House without waiting for the

assistance of those hon. gentlemen. Perhaps the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Durand) might get some of his measures tripped up in this way. (A laugh.)

Mr. MORIN rose and said, that had he thought that any embarrassment would be experienced by the officers of the Government in consequence of the adoption of the motion for the appointment of standing committees, he (Mr. Morin) would certainly have opposed that motion, because he wished that a fair trial should be afforded to those gentlemen to carry out the new system; but he did not think the committees would impede them in any way. He considered the existence of committees absolutely necessary to the proper transacting of the business of the House. Matters frequently arise which require the examination of papers and evidence which cannot conveniently be done in committee of the whole House.

When the reports of such standing committees are brought before the House, and they are found not to meet the views of those hon. gentlemen who constitute the ministry, they are at liberty to move that the sense of the House be taken upon them; and they cannot, therefore, be in any way discharged from their responsibility. He could not discover any embarrassment to be apprehended in the plan proposed of establishing standing committees.

Mr. BOSWELL said he could not take the same view of the matter which the hon. gentleman who had preceded him had done. His own conviction was that the government would be exceedingly embarrassed by the appointment of those committees. With reference to the advantages to be derived from proceeding in that way, he would ask, were they not perfectly safe in following the course adopted in the Imperial Parliament in matters of this description? Admitting that these committees were formed, their duty would be merely to report upon those matters which might be referred to them for consideration, well, on the other hand, all these matters have, previous to the sitting of the Legislature, been considered by her Majesty's government, and the officers of that government will be prepared to submit measures to this house upon all subjects of essential importance; then here we are met by another measure proceeding from some one of the committees. But hon. gentlemen may say the measures coming from her Majesty's government may be submitted to the committee also. The answer to this is, that those measures will have been sufficiently digested if laid before her Majesty's Council previous to their being brought into this house. Sir, this system if carried out, is not a desirable one, and if we are to embrace this course, in the manner spoken of, it will lead to serious difficulties. Sir, the course adopted by the government, as I understand it, is this: certain individuals supposed to have the confidence of the country are called to the Council of the Governor General; they are then to show that they do possess the confidence of the country by obtaining seats in the house; they have then to show still more strongly that they continue to possess that confidence by carrying with them in their measures generally the voice of the house. Can there be any danger, therefore, in entrusting to their consideration all matters which are to come before this house? The hon. gentleman then proceeded to point out the course pursued in the Imperial Parliament, and continued to observe that it would be interfering with that responsibility which they were desirous of placing upon the ministers of the crown, because those hon. gentlemen would be able to avail themselves of the labors of the committees, and to throw upon them the chief burden of responsibility.

Mr. BALDWIN then rose and said that he certainly was much gratified at hearing the remarks which had fallen from the learned Attorney General (Ogden); but he did not think that the gentlemen upon the treasury benches had yet fully explained the intentions of the government with regard to the precise policy which they intended to pursue. He (Mr. Baldwin) was averse to offering any embarrassment to those hon. gentlemen, but he could not understand how the appointment of these committees could interfere with them in the smallest degree.

Mr. VICEA said it appeared to him that although they had treasury benches it was doubtful whether they had a treasury at all. (Hear, hear.) As to the appointment of the committees, it would not have the effect of taking from the occupants of those treasury benches (without a treasury) the power of bringing forward any measure which might be deemed desirable to be introduced by the officers of the government. As regards embarrassment he thought that house would find itself embarrassed when petitions were presented upon various subjects which might require particular investigation and there was no committee in existence to whom those petitions might be referred. Besides those hon. gentlemen tell us that their time is taken up with public business already, why then do they wish to burden themselves with the introduction of all bills which it might be necessary to be taken into consideration? Who had ever heard before that hon. members of that house had not the right of introducing such measures as they considered necessary for the benefit of the public. The comparison which was to be drawn between the working of the British Constitution, and of the principles of government acted upon in this colony, did not seem to him well founded. In England they have a constitutional government which is well defined and perfectly applicable to the state of that extensive empire. They have municipal government which is the school of self government; the whole machinery of government there is like a clock which requires repairing and regulating occasionally, but never ceases to move altogether. In this new country, on the contrary, the wants are innumerable; new cases continually arise for adjustment, and a great deal of mechanical art is still necessary to produce perfect harmony in the heterogeneous materials of which the machinery is composed. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HINCKES said he regretted exceedingly that he was obliged to differ from several hon. gentlemen on this side of the house, but he felt it to be his duty to vote for the motion of the learned Attorney General. If he had entertained any doubts upon the subject those doubts would have been removed by the speech of the hon. member for Nicolet. He (Mr. Hinckes) did not desire that the responsibility should be removed from those hon. gentlemen who represent the government, and he looked upon standing committees as a standing screen for the government.

The discussion was protracted to a considerable length, upon the propriety of establishing standing committees, in which the following gentlemen took part, viz: Messrs. Simpson, Childs, Williams, Moffat, Aylwin, Sol. Gen. Day, Merritt, Sir Allan McNab, and Mr. Price. The speeches will be given in our next number.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ROUTINE BUSINESS.

Thursday, 17th June.

The Speaker stated that D. Roblin and B. Ham had entered into recognitions to contest the Election of Lenox and Addington.

Mr. QUESNEL presented the petitions of certain electors of Rouville, and of T. Franchère against the election for that county; Mr. Dunn that of W. H. Edwards and other people of color, lately from the United States, praying for naturalization.

Mr. SIMPSON, from the committee on the Rules and Regulations for the Session, presented their report.

Mr. MORIN presented the petition of Dewitt against the election of the electors.

Mr. MOFFAT gave notice that he would move for a committee to prepare lists of the members of the House to form permanent committees on the following subjects: 2d, of Grievances; 3d, of Justice; 4th, of Public Works; 5th, of Education and Schools; 6th, of Agriculture; 7th, of Public Improvements; 8th, of Public Buildings; 9th, of Hospitals and Asylums; 10th, of Charitable Institutions; 11th, of Hospitals and Asylums; 12th, of Hospitals and Asylums; and other matters relative to the departments of this House.

Mr. MORIN presented the petition of the electors of Vandriell, and of the electors of the Gore district, against the election for that county of the Hon. and Dr. Devise; and moved for the House to be adjourned on Wednesday.

The report of the Select Committee on the Rules of the House was read, and the second order of the day was read.

Sir Allan McNab brought forward the day relative to the return of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, which was referred to a committee of the House, which were empowered to turn was amended by Mr. Woods, Esq. was duly elected.

Mr. HINCKES gave notice that he would move for a Committee of the House to take into consideration the granting a compensation to the hon. member who would undertake to represent the faithful, and correct manner, the business of this House.

The House went into committee on the Rules and Regulations of the House, and the Durand reported progress, and moved to sit again to-morrow.

Joseph Woods, Esq. took the chair, having subscribed the usual oath.

Robert Christie, member for Nicolet, took the chair.

Mr. MORRIS moved for a committee to superintend the printing during the session. Messrs. Nelson, Duncombe, Neilson, and named such committee.

Mr. STEELE introduced a bill for the West Gwillimbury road, which was first time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT presented the Rev. W. King and others, Bury & Lingwick, praying for the Rev. W. King and others, and that copies of the Bible sent to the scholars attending different schools, for naturalization.

Mr. CHRISTIE, that of the river Ristigouche, present places of polling at any time in Bonaventure.—Of certain the county of Bonaventure, and the return for that county.

Mr. MOFFAT, according to a notice for a nominating committee, and a standing committee of the House, motion of Mr. Thorburn that the ballot the said committee be formed.

Mr. SMITH moved for a committee to take into consideration the bill by G. F. Wade Foot, Esq., for the election for the county of Kent, to his conduct in relation to the said bill.

The house went into committee on the rules and regulations, Mr. B. chair, who reported progress, and leave to sit again to-morrow.

The house went into committee on the Excellency's speech, Mr. Nelson who reported progress and leave to sit again to-morrow afternoon.