

change the form of indexing our debates, and after due examination of the question, the sub-committee reported to the general committee that the former system of indexing the official debates should be maintained. The report is presented in consequence of the recommendation of the sub-committee. In a nut shell, the sub-committee, as well as the general committee, did not think fit to adopt the English rule of indexing the debates of the House of Commons. We prefer to maintain the general index which has formerly been in use which gives an index of names and an index of subjects bound with each volume of one thousand pages.

Mr. TAYLOR. In every volume ?

Mr. GERVAIS. In every volume. Everybody is satisfied with the two indexes and we have therefore reported in favour of retaining the old system of indexing.

Mr. INGRAM. I am very glad to hear that the Debates Committee are continuing the old index because I may say that reference to the index of last year only proves that it is a very inconvenient one, and that the one which has been in use for so many years is much more convenient. I congratulate the committee upon going back to the old system.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As I understand it each volume is to contain 1,000 pages as was adopted last year.

Mr. GERVAIS. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And each volume will contain the entire index instead of the index only for that particular volume ?

Mr. GERVAIS. Yes, the complete index.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. H. GERVAIS moved :

That the third report of the Committee on Debates relating to the translation of debates be concurred in.

He said : The committee on debates are willing to comply with the demand of newspaper men as well as members of this House and others for a speedier translation of the debates. As a matter of fact there is a considerable delay in the publication of the debates in French—a delay of one month. Everybody is complaining of this delay and the Committee on Debates have thought fit to remedy this condition by authorizing the French translators to make their translation, not from the revised edition of the daily report of the debates, but from a carbon copy of the report of the debates if that be possible and if it will expedite the translation. The report of the committee is to that effect and I move that it be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. GERVAIS.

REPORT OF FISHERIES COMMISSION.

On the Orders of the Day being called :

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the government whether or not they propose to bring down, so that it may be printed and distributed, the report of certain commissioners appointed to investigate the condition of the fishing industry and especially the herring industry in the Bay of Fundy. My attention was called to it a day or two ago when the Minister of Marine and Fisheries brought down in an informal way this report in answer to a question placed on the order paper by the hon. member for Inverness (Mr. McLennan). It seems to me that if we have been justified in going to the expense of this commission, this report ought to be of sufficient value to have it distributed among the members of the House. At the same time I would like to inquire from the government whether or not the report of another commission which was appointed to investigate some other fishery matters, and the report of which is referred to in the report I have mentioned, will be presented at an early date.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. With regard to the report concerning the herring fisheries which was brought down the other day, it is the intention of the department to have it printed. I will inquire as to the other report.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden, thereto.

Mr. A. A. BRUNEAU (Richelieu). (Translation). Mr. Speaker, the constitution grants us the right to speak French in this House, and I hasten to avail myself of this privilege, for, considering the turn political events are taking in this country, if we are to believe Mr. Crawford, who spoke the other day at the Annual Banquet of the Orangemen in Toronto, it is evident that our right to speak French in this House will before long be questioned. When that time comes, in order to justify such an injustice, the constitution will not be appealed to ; but it will be stated that we speak English as readily as French, that we are not in the habit of speaking French here and that it is a source of expense to publish a French edition of the 'Hansard.' Of course, the proposal will be rejected, but the occasion will be a favourable one to stir up national prejudices against the so-called French domination ; for, as soon the rights of our race are acknowledged, the cry of French dom-