

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

DEBATES

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA.

FIRST SESSION—SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

54-55 VICTORIÆ, 1891.

VOL. XXXII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TENTH DAY OF JULY TO THE TWENTIETH
DAY OF AUGUST, INCLUSIVE.



OTTAWA:
PRINTED BY BROWN CHAMBERLIN, PRINTER TO THE QUEEN'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

1891.

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE

RT. HON. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, G.C.B.

AT THE OPENING OF THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

1891.

Minister of Railways and Canals (Premier)	-	*Right Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, G.C.B., &c.
Minister of Public Works	-	†Sir HECTOR LOUIS LANGEVIN, K.C.M.G., C.B.
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Minister of Militia and Defence	-	Sir ADOLPHE P. CARON, K.C.M.G.
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Minister of Finance	-	Hon. GEORGE EULAS FOSTER.
Without Portfolio	-	‡Hon. JOHN JOSEPH CALDWELL ABBOTT.
Minister of Marine and Fisheries	-	Hon. CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Postmaster General	-	Hon. JOHN GRAHAM HAGGART.
Minister of Interior	-	Hon. EDGAR DEWDNEY.
President of the Council	-	

Clerk of the Privy Council - - - JOHN JOSEPH MCGEE, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

Hon. PETER WHITE	-	<i>Speaker.</i>
JOSEPH G. H. BERGERON, M.P.	-	<i>Deputy Speaker.</i>
JOHN G. BOURINOT, Esq.	-	Clerk of the House.
DONALD W. MACDONELL, Esq.	-	Serjeant-at-Arms.
FRANÇOIS FORTUNAT ROULEAU, Esq.	-	Clerk Assistant.

OFFICIAL REPORTERS:

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THOS. JOHN RICHARDSON	-	
THOS. P. OWENS	-	} Assistant to Chief Reporter.
JNO. CHAS. BOYCE	-	

*Died 6th June, 1891.

†Resigned Portfolio, 7th September, 1891.

‡Accepted Portfolio (President of the Council and Premier) June 16th, 1891.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

CONSTITUENCIES AND MEMBERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

1891.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>ADDINGTON--George W. Dawson.
 ALBERT--Richard Chapman Weldon.
 ALBERTA--Donald Watson Davis.
 ALGOMA--George Macdonell.
 ANNAPOLIS--John B. Mills.
 ANTIGONISH--Hon. Sir John Thompson, K.C.M.G.
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 ASSINIBOIA, West--Nicholas Flood Davin.</p> <p>BAGOT--Flavien Dupont.
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 BEAUHARNOIS--Joseph Gédéon Horace Bergeron.
 BELLECHASSE--Guillaume Amyot.
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 BONAVENTURE--William Le Boutillier Fauvel.
 BOTHWELL--Hon. David Mills.
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 BRANT, S. Riding--William Paterson.
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 BRUCE, W. Riding--James Rowand.</p> <p>CAPE BRETON-- { Hector F. McDougall.
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 ELGIN, W. Riding--George Elliott Casey.
 ESSEX, N. Riding--William McGregor.
 ESSEX, S. Riding--Henry W. Allan.</p> <p>FRONTENAC--Hon. George Airey Kirkpatrick.</p> <p>GASPÉ--Louis Zéphirin Joncas.
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 GREY, N. Riding--James Masson.
 GREY, S. Riding--George Landerkin.
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 { John Fitz-William Stairs.
 HALTON--David Henderson.
 HAMILTON-- { Alexander McKay.
 { Samuel S. Ryckman.
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 HASTINGS, E. Riding--Samuel Barton Burdett.</p> |
|--|--|

- HASTINGS, N. Riding—Hon. Mackenzie Bowell.
 HASTINGS, W. Riding—Henry Corby.
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 HUNTINGDON—Julius Scriver.
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 INVERNESS—Hugh Cameron.
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 { John McLean.
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 LAMBTON, W. Riding—James Frederick Lister.
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 LANARK, S. Riding—Hon. John Graham Haggart.
 LAPRAIRIE—Louis Conrad Pelletier.
 L'ASSOMPTION—Joseph Gauthier.
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 LEEDS, S. Riding—George Taylor.
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 LÉVIS—Pierre Malcolm Guay.
 LINCOLN AND NIAGARA—William Gibson.
 LISGAR—Arthur Wellington Ross.
 L'ISLET—Louis George Desjardins.
 LONDON—Charles Smith Hyman.
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 LUNENBURG—Charles Edwin Kaulbach.
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 MIDDLESEX, N. Riding—William H. Hutchins.
 MIDDLESEX, S. Riding—James Armstrong.
 MIDDLESEX, W. Riding—William Frederick Roome.
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 MONTMAGNY—Philippe A. Choquette.
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 MONTREAL, East—Alphonse Télesphore Lépine.
 MONTREAL, West—Sir Donald Smith, K.C.M.G.
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- NAPIERVILLE—Dominique Monet.
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 NORFOLK, S. Riding—David Tisdale.
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 NORTHUMBERLAND (O.) W.R.—John Hargraft.
- ONTARIO, N. Riding—Frank Madill.
 ONTARIO, S. Riding—James I. Davidson.
 ONTARIO, W. Riding—James David Edgar.
- OTTAWA (City) — { Charles Herbert Mackintosh.
 { Honoré Robillard.
 OTTAWA (County)—Charles Ramsay Devlin.
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 OXFORD, S. Riding—Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright,
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 PERTH, S. Riding—James Trow.
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 PETERBOROUGH, W. Riding—James Stevenson.
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 { John McDougald.
 PONTIAC—Thomas Murray.
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 { John Yeo.
 PRINCE EDWARD—Archibald Campbell Miller.
 PROVENCHER—Alphonse A. C. LaRivière.
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 QUEBEC, East—Hon. Wilfred Laurier.
 QUEBEC, West—Hon. Thomas McGreevy.
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 QUEEN'S (P.E.I.)—{ Louis Henry Davies.
 { William Welsh.
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 RENFREW, S. Riding—John Ferguson.
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 RUSSELL—William Cameron Edwards.
- ST. HYACINTHE—Michel E. Bernier.
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 ST. JOHN (N.B.) City and Co.—{ J. Douglas Hazen.
 { Chas. N. Skinner.
 ST. JOHN'S (Q.)—François Bourassa.
 ST. MAURICE—François Sévère L. Desaulniers.

SASKATCHEWAN—Day Hart Macdowall.	VICTORIA (B. C.)— <i>f</i> Edward Gawler Prior. <i>(</i> Thomas Earle.
SELKIRK—Thomas Mayne Daly.	VICTORIA (N.B.)—Hon. John Costigan.
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SHERBROOKE—William Bullock Ives.	VICTORIA (O.) S. Riding—Charles Fairbairn.
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SIMCOE, N. Riding—Dalton McCarthy.	WATERLOO, S. Riding—James Livingston.
SIMCOE, S. Riding—Richard Tyrwhitt.	WELLAND—William M. German.
SOULANGES—Joseph Octave Mousseau.	WELLINGTON, Centre Riding—Andrew Semple.
STANSTEAD—Timothy Byron Rider.	WELLINGTON, N. Riding—James McMullen.
SUNBURY—Robert Duncan Wilmot.	WELLINGTON, S. Riding—James Innes.
TÉMISCOUATA—Paul Etienne Grandbois.	WENTWORTH, N. Riding—Thomas Bain.
TERREBONNE—Hon. Joseph Adolphe Chapleau.	WENTWORTH, S. Riding—Franklin M. Carpenter.
THREE RIVERS—Hon. Sir Hector Langevin, K.C.M.G.	WESTMORELAND—Josiah Wood.
TORONTO, Centre—George Ralph R. Cockburn.	WINNIPEG—Hugh John Macdonald.
TORONTO, East—Emerson Coatsworth, jun.	YALE—John Andrew Mara.
TORONTO, West—Frederick Charles Denison, C. M. G.	YAMASKA—Roch Moïse Samuel Mignault.
TWO MOUNTAINS—Jean Baptiste Daoust.	YARMOUTH—Thomas Barnard Flint.
VANCOUVER ISLAND—David William Gordon.	YORK (N.B.)—Thomas Temple.
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VERCHÈRES—Hon. Felix Geoffrion.	YORK (O.) N. Riding—William Mulock.
	YORK (O.) W. Riding—N. Clarke Wallace.

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO SUPERVISE THE PUBLICATION OF THE
OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

BÉCHARD, Mr. François (<i>Iberville</i>).	PRIOR, Mr. Edward Gawler (<i>Victoria, B.C.</i>)
BEAUSOLEIL, Mr. Cléophas (<i>Berthier</i>).	SCRIVER, Mr. Jules (<i>Huntingdon</i>).
CAMERON, Mr. Hugh (<i>Inverness</i>).	SKINNER, Charles N., (<i>St. John City and County</i> .)
CHARLTON, Mr. John (<i>North Norfolk</i>).	SOMERVILLE, Mr. James (<i>West Bruce</i>).
DAVIN, Mr. N. F. (<i>West Assiniboia</i>).	TAYLOR, Mr. George (<i>South Leeds</i>).
DESJARDINS, Mr. Alphonse (<i>Hochelaga</i>).	WELDON, Mr. R. Chapman (<i>Albert</i>).
INNES, Mr. James (<i>South Wellington</i>).	WHITE, Mr. Robert Smeaton (<i>Cardwell</i>).
LARIVIÈRE, Mr. Alphonse A. C. (<i>Provencher</i>).	

Chairman :—MR. ALPHONSE DESJARDINS (*Hochelaga*).

LIST OF PAIRS DURING THE SESSION.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON'S amendment (six month's hoist) to Mr. Cameron's (Huron motion for second reading of Bill 8 (Franchise Act Repeal) 20th May :—

<i>Ministerial.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
Mr. CORBOULD.	Mr. CASEY.
Mr. KENNY.	Mr. LIVINGSTON.
Mr. GRANDBOIS.	Mr. SCRIVER.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. ALEX. MACKENZIE.
Sir JOHN MACDONALD.	Hon. Mr. LAURIER.
Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds).	Mr. BORDEN.

On Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN'S motion (to adjourn debate) to Mr. Davin's proposed resolution (*re* Second Homesteads, N.W.T.) 1st June :—

Mr. CLEVELAND.	Mr. CARROLL.
Mr. DESAULNIERS.	Mr. LEGRIS.
Mr. JONCAS.	Mr. CHOQUETTE.
Mr. CORBY.	Mr. GIBSON.
Mr. DYER.	Mr. LAVERGNE.
Mr. PELLETIER.	Mr. LANGELIER.
Mr. STEVENSON.	Mr. SCRIVER.
Mr. WOOD (Brookville).	Mr. HARGRAFT.
Mr. COATSWORTH.	Mr. FEATHERSON.

On Sir JOHN THOMPSON'S amendment (six months' hoist) to Mr. Edgar's motion for second reading of Bill 4 (Electoral Franchise Act) 4th June :—

Mr. TAYLOR.	Mr. TROW.
Mr. O'BRIEN.	Mr. BARRON.
Hon. Mr. DEWDNEY.	Mr. MULOCK.
Mr. PRIOR.	Mr. HYMAN.
Sir JOHN MACDONALD.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.

On Mr. LAURIER'S proposed resolution (Censuring the High Commissioner) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 5th June :—

Mr. O'BRIEN.	Mr. BARRON.
Mr. SKINNER.	Mr. KING.
Mr. IVES.	Mr. FRÉMONT.

Ministerial.

Opposition.

Mr. DESJARDINS (Hoeb.)	Mr. AMYOT.
Mr. CURRAN.	Mr. DEVLIN.
Mr. MACDOWALL.	Mr. CHARLTON.
Mr. COATSWORTH.	Mr. FEATHERSTON.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. LIVINGSTON.
Sir JOHN MACDONALD.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Hon. Mr. DEWDNEY.	Mr. MULOCK.
Mr. PRIOR.	Mr. HYMAN.
Mr. RYCKMAN.	Mr. McMULLEN.
Mr. STEVENSON.	Mr. EDGAR.

On Mr. LAURIER'S motion (to adjourn the House: Want of Confidence in Government) 22nd June :—

Mr. IVES.	Mr. FRÉMONT.
Mr. WOOD (Westmoreland)	Mr. FLINT.
Mr. STEVENSON.	Mr. SCRIVER.
Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU.	Mr. JONCAS.
Hon. Mr. FOSTER.	Sir R. CARTWRIGHT.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. REID.	Mr. CASEY.
Mr. BAKER.	Mr. BERNIER.
Mr. POPE.	Mr. LEGRIS.
Mr. BURNHAM.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.
Hon. Mr. QUIMET.	Mr. BOURASSA.
Mr. WILMOT.	Mr. GIBSON.

On Mr. MULOCK'S proposed resolution (Repeal of Duty on Binding Twine) 6th July :—

Hon. Mr. TUPPER.	Mr. DAVIES.
Mr. IVES.	Mr. HYMAN.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. STEVENSON.	Mr. SCRIVER.
Mr. BERGIN.	Mr. LISTER.
Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU.	Mr. SIMARD.
Mr. DESAULNIERS.	Mr. LEGRIS.
Mr. MASSON.	Mr. McMULLEN.

On Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT's amendment (Reduction of Duties) to Mr. Foster's motion to concur in resolutions reported from Committee of Ways and Means, 28th July :—

<i>Ministerial.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. McGREEVY.	Mr. GIBSON.

On Mr. DESJARDIN's resolution (Commercial Union between Canada and the United States) 4th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. ADAMS.	Mr. COLTER.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. KENNY.	Mr. FORBES.
Mr. MONCRIEFF.	Mr. LISTER.
Mr. BURNS.	Mr. GERMAN.
Mr. PATTERSON (Col.)	Mr. EDGAR.
Mr. TISDALE.	Mr. ARMSTRONG.
Mr. WILMOT.	Mr. BURDETT.
Mr. SKINNER.	Mr. CARROLL.
Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU.	Mr. CHOQUETTE.
Mr. MACKINTOSH.	Mr. SPOHN.

On Mr. CHARLTON's proposed resolution (Timber Licenses, &c.) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 5th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.
Mr. ADAMS.	Mr. COLTER.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. KENNY.	Mr. FORBES.
Mr. MONCRIEFF.	Mr. LISTER.
Mr. BURNS.	Mr. GERMAN.
Mr. ROSS (Lisgar).	Mr. EDWARDS.
Mr. McLEAN.	Mr. YEO.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. SKINNER.	Mr. CARROLL.
Hon. Mr. KIRKPATRICK.	Mr. HYMAN.
Mr. BERGERON.	Mr. EDGAR.
Mr. PATTERSON (Col.)	Mr. BURDETT.

On Mr. CAMERON's (Huron) proposed resolution (Tay Canal Construction) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 12th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. McDUGALL (C.B.)	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. KENNY.	Mr. FORBES.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. SKINNER.	Mr. BRODEUR.
Mr. McALLISTER.	Mr. BARRON.

On Mr. LAURIER's proposed resolution (British Columbia Settlers' Grievances) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 18th August :—

<i>Ministerial.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. IVES.	Mr. FRÉMONT.
Mr. CORBY.	Mr. CHARLTON.
Mr. McKAY.	Mr. BOWMAN.
Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU.	Mr. CHOQUETTE.

On Mr. AMYOT's proposed resolution (The Bancroft Tender, Kingston Graving Dock) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 20th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. CORBY.	Mr. CHARLTON.
Mr. McKAY.	Mr. TRUAX.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. MONTAGUE.	Mr. CAMERON (Huron).
Mr. TISDALE.	Mr. MULOCK.

On Mr. DAVIES' (P.E.I.) proposed resolution (West Indies Steamship Subsidies) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 25th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. RYCKMAN.	Mr. DELISLE.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. WOOD (Westm'd).	Mr. KING.
Mr. POPE.	Mr. PATERSON (Brant)
Mr. MACDOWALL.	Mr. SUTHERLAND.
Mr. McLEAN.	Mr. YEO.
Mr. FERGUSON (Leeds).	Mr. SPOHN.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. BURDETT.

On Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT's proposed resolution (Governor General's Warrants) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 27th August :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. MACDOWALL.	Mr. PATERSON (Brant).
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. KING.
Mr. POPE.	Mr. FRÉMONT.
Mr. CURRAN.	Mr. DEVLIN.
Mr. KIRKPATRICK.	Mr. SUTHERLAND.

On Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT's proposed resolution (Census) in amendment to motion for Committee of Supply, 3rd September :—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BOWERS.
Mr. ROSS (Lisgar).	Mr. PATERSON (Brant).
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.

On Mr. PATERSON'S amendment (Sugar Duties) to Mr. Foster's motion for third reading of Bill 155 (Customs Act) 10th September:—

<i>Ministerial.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. CURRAN.	Mr. MURRAY.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. WELDON.	Mr. BEAUSOLEIL.
Mr. MARA.	Mr. LANGELIER.
Mr. JONCAS.	Mr. TARTE.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. MONCRIEFF.	Mr. LISTER.
Mr. DYER.	Mr. SCRIVER.
Mr. DUGAS.	Mr. DELISLE.
Mr. LEGER.	Mr. BOWERS.
Mr. ROSS (Lisgar).	Mr. BOWMAN.
Mr. CORBOULD.	Mr. BURDETT.
Mr. MACDOWALL.	Mr. DEVLIN.

On Mr. CAMERON'S (Huron) amendment (Minority Report *re* Mr. Cochrane, M.P.) to Mr. Skinner's motion to concur in the Majority Report of Sub-Committee on Privileges and Elections, 17th September:—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. WHITE (Shelburne).	Mr. FORBES.
Mr. MACKINTOSH.	Mr. HYMAN.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. McCARTHY.	Mr. EDGAR.

On Mr. LISTER'S motion for Select Committee (*re* Charges against the Postmaster General) and Sir John Thompson's amendment (to proceed to the Orders of the Day) 23rd September:—

<i>Ministerial.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. WHITE (Shelburne).	Mr. FORBES.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. MONCRIEFF.	Mr. LISTER.
Mr. POPE.	Mr. PRÉFONTAINE.

On Mr. DAVIES' (P.E.I.) amendment (Minority Report *re* Public Works Contracts) to Mr. Girouard's motion to concur in the Majority Report of Committee on Privileges and Elections, 24th September:—

Mr. BARNARD.	Mr. WELSH.
Mr. EARLE.	Mr. FAUVEL.
Mr. WHITE (Shelburne).	Mr. FORBES.
Mr. McKEEN.	Mr. BORDEN.
Mr. MONCRIEFF.	Mr. LISTER.
Mr. McDOUGALL (C.B.)	Mr. FRASER.
Mr. TISDALE.	Mr. CHARLTON.
Sir DONALD SMITH.	Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.
Mr. CORBOULD.	Mr. BURDETT.
Mr. MACDOWALL.	Mr. DEVLIN.
Mr. MARA.	Mr. FRÉMONT.

House of Commons Debates.

FIRST SESSION—SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

The SIXTH PARLIAMENT of the DOMINION, which had been prorogued from the 16th day of May, 1890, and thence from time to time, was dissolved by Proclamation on the 3rd day of February, 1891, and, Writs having been issued and returned, a new Parliament was summoned to meet for the Despatch of Business, on Wednesday, the 29th day of April, 1891, and did accordingly meet on that day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 29th April, 1891.

On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the First Session of the SEVENTH PARLIAMENT, for the Despatch of Business,—JOHN G. BOURINOT, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Commons, DONALD WILLIAM MACDONELL, FRANÇOIS FORTENAT ROULEAU, and HENRY HARTNEY, Esquires, Commissioners appointed by *Dedimus Potestatem* for administering the Oath to Members of the House of Commons, all attending according to their duty;—SAMUEL E. ST. O. CHAPLEAU, Esquire, Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, delivered to the said JOHN G. BOURINOT a book containing a List of the Names of the Members returned to serve in this Parliament.

The aforesaid Commissioners did administer the Oath to the Members who were present, which being done and the Members having subscribed the Roll containing the Oath, they repaired to their seats.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

Gentlemen :

The Honourable Sir WILLIAM JOHNSTONE RITCHIE, Deputy Governor, desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate, when the Speaker of the Senate said :

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The Honourable Sir WILLIAM JOHNSTONE RITCHIE, Deputy Governor, does not see fit to declare the causes of summoning the present Parliament until a Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but to-morrow, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the causes of calling this Parliament will be declared.

And the House being returned,

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. BOURINOT, I rise to move :

That PETER WHITE, Esquire, the member representing the Electoral District of the North Riding of the County of Renfrew, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

To those hon. members who have sat in previous Parliaments I need not say one single word as to the merits of Mr. White, or as to his fitness to perform the duties of this office, this high and important office, with due dignity, and not only with dignity of manner but with impartiality and ability. Mr. White has been in Parliament for fourteen or fifteen years, and from the time he first entered it he took a very considerable position, even when a very young man; and we all know the assiduity and ability with which he performed his part and his duties as a member of the House of Commons of Canada. He was always in his place, always ready for his work, enjoying and earning at a very early period the respect and esteem, and, I may say, the friendship of his associates in Parliament, whether sitting on the right or left of the Speaker; and he vindicated the judgment of his constituents in electing him as their representative, for we all know how well he performed his duties as a member of this House. I do not know on either side of the House any hon. member who would prove, from his demeanour, conduct and ability, more acceptable, without reference to political questions, than my friend the member for the North Riding of Renfrew. Without further remark, I move the resolution, seconded by Sir Hector Langevin.

Mr. LAURIER. Mr. BOURINOT, it is the privilege of the Administration, at the opening of every new Parliament, to suggest a member whom they believe to be worthy of presiding over the deliberations of this House and competent to discharge the important duties of the office of Speaker. It is not unnatural to expect that the Administration, in seeking for such a person, will look exclusively into the ranks of their own followers, however attenuated, diminished, decreased, thinned or decimated they may have been by the verdict of the people. It would be the right, nay, it would be the duty also, of the Opposition, if the person thus offered to the House did not meet with their approbation, to express their dissent by their words, and, if necessary, by their votes. In the present circumstances, I cannot say that I am altogether disappointed at the choice of the right hon. gentleman, and, for reasons obvious, I am rather disposed to agree with his choice. But the right hon. gentleman has developed of late such a sense of loyalty to British institutions, such a deference for British precedents, that I supposed he would be glad to agree to come back to British practice and to follow British precedents, by suggesting to this House the continuation of the late Speaker as the present Speaker of this Parliament. The right hon. gentleman is aware, and more aware than I am myself, that, according to British precedents, my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Ouimet), who was the incumbent of the office of Speaker during the last Parliament,

should be the choice of the House on the present occasion. But, Sir, I knew before to-day that Conservative loyalty to British institutions shines and glows at election times, and when the elections are over it is put under a bushel to serve again when the occasion arises. If, however, British precedents are to be discarded, I would have suggested that with great propriety my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Wood), who was Deputy Speaker for the last Parliament, and who had discharged the duties of the office with admirable skill, as everyone will agree, would have been worthy of the honour of being Speaker of this House. I do not say this, Mr. BOURNOR, with any intention of impugning the qualifications of the hon. gentleman who is now suggested to the House as the future Speaker. I am disposed to say on behalf of the Opposition--of the Loyal Opposition of Her Majesty: loyal, Sir, in every sense of the word, loyal to the Crown, loyal to the people, loyal to this House: even loyal to the majority of this House, and ever ready to accept a good suggestion from the majority when on the few and rare occasions a good suggestion comes from them--I am disposed to agree with everything that has been said by my right hon. friend in reference to the hon. member for North Renfrew (Mr. White), the nominee for the office of Speaker. Everything the right hon. gentleman has said is fully endorsed by his colleagues in this House. From past experience of the hon. gentleman (Mr. White) I am sure that he is endowed with a thorough knowledge of the practice and business of this House, and we know from experience that he is also endowed with a sound judgment, a firm spirit, and I should say, a great independence of character. My hon. friend will pardon me, I hope, if I remind him that perfection is not of this world. He would not be of the human race if he did not allow me to tell with perfect candour that he cannot be altogether free from fault. I must, however, say that the only fault I have ever found with him was that I believe that he is endowed, nay saturated, with a certain political heresy which at one time was very prevalent in this country, but which under the lessons of a sad experience is now fast disappearing, and which will be long remembered by a long-suffering people as the National Policy. I am glad to say that I am sure that this heresy which would impair the usefulness of the hon. member on the floor of this House, if he had a seat in common with all of us, will not affect him at all while he is sitting in the Speaker's chair. I am sure that when he ascends to the chair he will leave aside all party proclivities and all political professions, and that in the high station to which he shall be called by the unanimous choice of the House he will stand upright and impartial, holding the scales evenly between contending parties without fear of any one, with favour to none, and with fair play to all.

The motion being put to the House,

Mr. BOURNOR declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *namine contradicente*; and PETER WHITE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of North Renfrew, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. WHITE was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin.

Mr. LAURIER.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT. I have to tender my grateful acknowledgment to this House for the high honour it has conferred upon me in electing me to the position of Speaker. It will always be my earnest hope to deserve the confidence that has been reposed in me, and I shall endeavour to discharge the duties of the high position to which you have elected me, with firmness and impartiality. I am fully sensible of my unfitness for the position, but I shall rely upon the co-operation of the hon. gentlemen upon both sides of the House to assist me in maintaining our Rules and Orders, in vindicating our rights and privileges, and in preserving the freedom and dignity of debate according to established usages.

The Serjeant-at-Arms then placed the Mace on the Table of the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to: and House adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 30th April, 1891.

The SPEAKER Elect having taken the Chair,

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

MR. SPEAKER.—

His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

Then the HONOURABLE PETER WHITE, SPEAKER ELECT, said:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their QUEEN and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of Speech in their Debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable the SPEAKER of the Senate then said:

MR. SPEAKER.—

I am commanded by His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have access to His Excellency upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL was pleased to open Parliament by a Speech from the Throne.

And the House being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to state that the House having attended on His Excellency