

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, *unanimously*; 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

the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen on me, and, in your names and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a judgment bearing date the 8th November, 1890, of the Hon. Mr. Justice Armour, one of the judges selected for the trial of election petitions pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, in the matter of the election petition for the Electoral District of the County of Halton, by which the then sitting member was declared duly elected.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.

Bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform this House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech, which is as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I am glad to welcome you to the duties of the first Session of a new Parliament, which I hope will be memorable for wise deliberations, and for measures adapted to the progress and development of the Dominion.

The season in which you are assembled has opened auspiciously for the industries of our people. Let us hope that their labours may be crowned with fruitful returns from land and sea, and that the great resources of Canada may continue to reward the toil and enterprise of its inhabitants.

My advisers, availing themselves of opportunities which were presented in the closing months of last year, caused the Administration of the United States to be reminded of the willingness of the Government of Canada to join in making efforts for the extension and development of the trade between the Republic and the Dominion, as well as for the friendly adjustment of those matters of an international character which remain unsettled. I am pleased to say that these representations have resulted in an assurance that, in October next, the Government of the United States will be prepared to enter on a Conference to consider the best means of arriving at a practical solution of these important questions. The papers relating to this subject will be laid before you.

Under these circumstances, and in the hope that the proposed Conference may result in arrangements beneficial to both countries, you will be called upon to consider the expediency of extending, for the present season, the principal provisions of the protocol annexed to the Washington Treaty, 1888, known as the *Modus Vivendi*.

A disposition having been manifested in the United Kingdom to impose on sea-going ships engaged in the cattle trade increased safeguards for life and greater restrictions against improper treatment, a careful en-

quiry has been made as to the incidents of that trade, in so far as this country is concerned. The evidence elicited on this enquiry will be laid before you. While I am glad to learn that our shipping is free from reproach in that regard, your attention will be invited to a measure which will remove all reasonable apprehensions of abuses arising in the future in connection with so important a branch of our commerce.

The early coming into force of the Imperial Statute relating to the Vice-Admiralty Courts of the Empire has made it necessary to revise the laws in force in Canada respecting our Courts of Maritime Jurisdiction, and a measure will therefore be laid before you, designed to reorganize those tribunals.

A Code of the Criminal Law has been prepared in order that this branch of our jurisprudence may be simplified and improved, to which your best attention is invited.

Measures relating to the Foreshores of the Dominion and to the obstruction of its navigable waters, will be submitted to you, and you will also be asked to consider amendments to the Acts relating to the North-West Territories, to the Exchequer Court Act, and to the Acts relating to Trade Marks.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts for the past year will be submitted to you. The Revenue, after providing for the services to which you appropriated it, has left a surplus for the works which you designed to be carried on by Capital expenditure.

The Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I pray that in the consideration of these matters, and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on you, your deliberations may be Divinely aided, and that your wisdom and patriotism may enlarge the prosperity of the Dominion, and promote in every way the well-being of its people.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections; 2. On Expiring Laws; 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines; 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills; 5. On Standing Orders; 6. On Printing; 7. On Public Accounts; 8. On Banking and Commerce; 9. On Immigration and Colonization;—which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That a Special Committee of seven members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by the House this day, and that Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir John Thompson, and Messrs. Bowell, Laurier and Mills (Bothwell) do compose the said Committee.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.

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

REPRESENTATION OF CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. LAURIER. I would call the attention of the Government to the fact that the returning officer for the County of Chicoutimi has not yet made his report to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the present member elect, Mr. Savard, is deprived of his seat. The election took place on the 5th of March, and there can be no reason why the report should not have been in a long time ago.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Clerk informs me that it is on its way. It has been telegraphed for. I do not know the cause of the delay.

Motion agreed to: and House adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 1st May, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, a certificate of the election and return of PAUL VILMOND SAVARD for the Electoral District of Chicoutimi and Saguenay.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. BOWELL. With the consent of the House, I desire, before the Orders of the Day are called, to move the usual motion for the appointment of a Joint Committee to supervise the Report of the Debates. There are but few changes. I propose to substitute Mr. LaRivière for Mr. Vanasse and Dr. Cameron of Inverness for Mr. Tupper, who wishes to be relieved of the duties pertaining to this committee, and to place Mr. Skinner on the committee instead of Mr. Ellis. The motion is as follows:—

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Reports of the Debates of this House during the present Session, with power to report from time to time; to be composed of Messrs. Béchard, Cameron (Inverness), Charlton, Davin, Desjardins (Hochelaga), Innes, LaRivière, Prior, Scriver, Skinner, Somerville, Taylor, Weldon, and White (Cardwell).

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman was kind enough to mention this matter to me, and at the moment I saw no objection to the names he proposed, but, on hearing the changes he proposes, I find that the proportion of the two parties on this committee is somewhat altered from the proportion last year. I find that the Opposition has one member less on the committee than it had last year, and it seems to me that if any change were made, it ought to be made in the other direction.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

I would, therefore, suggest that the motion should be left over until to-morrow.

Motion postponed.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. HAZEN. In rising to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne with which His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to open the First Session of the Seventh Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, I feel that, as a young member of the House, and as a member without experience in parliamentary matters, I may well be pardoned if I follow in the well-worn footsteps of gentlemen who, in previous Sessions, have preceded me in this duty, and pursue the time-honoured custom of asking the kind indulgence of the House in the remarks which I am about to make. It is well understood that the formality of a Speech from the Throne—a formality which, like many of our institutions, is derived from the mother country—is intended to enable a brief reference to be made to matters of administration and to convey to Parliament an idea of the important measures which will be submitted for their consideration, and though, in the Speech with which His Excellency opened this Parliament yesterday, the subjects referred to were not very numerous, they have yet, I feel, so important a bearing and so comprehensive a view in regard to the welfare of this country of ours that of this Speech it cannot be said, as has been said in criticism of others in the past, that it is more remarkable for its omissions than for what it contains. With the two first paragraphs of that Speech I feel satisfied that hon. members of this House, sitting on either side of your Honour, will agree, and that the sentiments expressed in them will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all who have heard them. It is very important indeed in all legislative bodies that the deliberations should be carried on wisely, harmoniously and in a spirit of fairness, and it is especially important in a young country like this Canada of ours, standing, as I may say, on the very threshold of its career of welfare and prosperity, that the legislation should be not only of a progressive character, but should be along the lines which have characterized the legislation of this country for the past twelve years, and which have resulted in the development of its industries and natural resources and the amelioration and the betterment of its people. It is pleasing to know that the season which has just opened has opened so auspiciously for the interests and industries of the people of this country. It is pleasing to hear the reports made from every part of this Dominion, from the north and the south, from the east and the west, that there is every prospect that the farmers and the husbandmen of Canada will have their labours abundantly rewarded by the yield of a splendid harvest. With us in this country, as in every other country where agriculture is the mainstay of the population and the true basis of the nation's wealth, the quality of the harvest is the guarantee of the wealth of the people, and it is of the utmost importance that the crops should be successful. It is, therefore, to be hoped that this season will justify the hopes expressed