

When they arrived, **Hon. Mr. SPEAKER** said:

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

His Excellency the Governor General does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present Parliament of Canada, until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen, according to law; but tomorrow, at the hour of three o'clock, in the afternoon, His Excellency will declare the cause of his calling this Parliament.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

Having returned,

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD rose and said that he rose for the purpose of proposing an hon. member of the House to fill the important and responsible position of Speaker. He would at once say that the hon. gentleman whose name he would submit was the Hon. James Cockburn, member for the West riding of the County of Northumberland. To those gentlemen who had sat under his (Hon. Mr. Cockburn's) guidance, as Speaker of the House, during the last Parliament, he (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) need not address any arguments to press his claims for that important office. Five years ago he was elected to fill it and he (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) believed that during that time he had performed his duties in a manner acceptable to the House and to the country.

He might say to those Hon. members who occupied seats on the floor of the House for the first time, that the hon. gentleman whose name he had mentioned had had a long experience in Parliament and in official life; that in both positions he had performed his duties honourably and well, and that during his term in office as Speaker none of his decisions had ever been reversed. Like all other Speakers, he might have given decisions that were not acceptable to individual members.

Mr. RYMAL: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Walpole, speaking on this subject in the British Parliament, had said that during his long experience he had never known a Speaker whose decisions had not been objected to on both sides of the House. Among his own party from a feeling that perhaps from fear of seeming to lean towards his friends he had given decisions adverse to them; and by his opponents from a belief that he had been partial to his friends. On the whole, and after all, the general tenor of a Speaker's conduct should be the guide as to whether he was fit for re-election or not. He (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) was

now trying to introduce the system that had been obtained in England, and had worked well; that after a Speaker had served well he should not be changed capriciously at the beginning of each Parliament.

Without saying any more he would move that the Hon. James Cockburn, member for the West riding of Northumberland, should be appointed Speaker of this Parliament.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN repeated in French the substance of the remarks made by the Premier.

The motion was then put to the vote by the Clerk, Mr. Patrick, and carried unanimously, amid loud applause from the ministerial benches, and a solemn silence on the part of the Opposition.

The Speaker elect was then conducted to the chair by the Hon. Premier and Hon. Mr. Langevin.

On assuming his seat he said, I desire to convey to the House my most grateful acknowledgements for thus again unanimously electing me to be its Speaker.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then moved that when this House adjourns it stand adjourned until half past two o'clock on Thursday.—Carried.

The adjournment was then moved and the House adjourned.

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INCIDENTAL TO THE OPENING

Incidental to the opening was the swearing in of the members. This duty was performed by the Clerk in the Commons Chamber; and certainly Mr. Patrick gave as much solemnity to the proceeding as was possible under the circumstances. It must, however, have been rather difficult to preserve that decorum which is so desirable, as the hon. gentlemen, who were crowding around, were in anything but a grave mood, and were, on the whole, more inclined to lark. Time pressed also, and the swearing was done by trios, and even then was hardly completed at the hour appointed for the sitting of the House.

It is, nevertheless, gratifying to feel that we have in the city a noble band, two hundred strong, who are bound by all that is holy to be loyal to their Queen and country. In some instances the loyalty of the commoners must be extreme, if we can at all rely on their oaths, for they have so often repeated them that they must surely be binding in the last degree.