

## REPORT.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year ended March 31, 1915 (English and French versions).—Hon. T. Chase Casgrain.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I do not think that the presentation of a report at this stage is in order, but we will not raise the point: we will commend the hon. gentleman for his diligence.

On motion of Sir George Foster, the House adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

Thursday, January 13, 1916.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

## OPENING OF THE SESSION.

Mr. SPEAKER read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary announcing that His Royal Highness would proceed to the Senate Chamber at 3 p.m. on this day for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion Parliament.

A message was delivered by Lieut-Col. Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Royal Highness the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

Then the Hon. Albert Sévigny, Speaker-elect, said:

May it please Your Royal Highness:

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.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Royal Highness the Governor General was pleased to open Parliament by a Speech from the Throne.

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

[Mr. Speaker.]

## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

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

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

Since I last addressed you the war in which we are engaged has been continued with unabated vigour and varying fortunes.

The Empire's part therein has been amply maintained at sea by the inspiring achievements of the Navy, and on land by the distinguished valour of the great armies which have enrolled themselves in all parts of His Majesty's Dominions for the common defence of our liberties.

In a spirit of splendid loyalty and unflinching devotion, India and the Overseas Dominions have vied with each other in co-operating with the Mother Country to achieve this great purpose.

The call to service has evoked a widespread and notable response in Canada. Already 120,000 men have crossed the seas, an equal number is now being actively trained and equipped for service abroad, and a call extending the authorized enlistment to half a million men has been received with warm enthusiasm.

At the front our gallant soldiers have met the enemy in repeated contests, and by their pre-eminent courage and heroic endurance have shed lustre upon their country and upheld its highest traditions.

Equally praiseworthy and impressive has been the self-sacrificing and loyal spirit shown by all the Canadian people who have freely dedicated their manhood and substance to the common defence of the Empire.

The life of the present Parliament expires in the autumn of this year, and, under existing legislation a dissolution and election would be necessary in the early future. My advisers, however, are of the opinion that the wishes of the Canadian people and the present requirements of the war would be best met by avoiding the distraction and confusion consequent upon a general election at so critical a time.

That purpose can only be effected through the medium of legislation by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. A resolution authorizing and requesting the enactment of such legislation as will extend the life of this Parliament