

regretted that, at the inauguration of a new system, greater respect was not shown to Lower Canada in this matter. He looked upon this as a matter of national feeling. In the Constitution of the Dominion it was provided that all official documents should be printed in both languages, and the principle which lay at the foundation of the provision should, he thought, be carried out in the nomination of a speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Cartier** replied, that though Mr. Cockburn did not speak French he understood it, and in that respect was in the same position as Speakers of the Canadian House under the former Constitution—such as Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, Sir Henry Smith and Mr. Walbridge.

The motion having been put by the Clerk, the Hon. James Cockburn was unanimously elected Speaker, and was conducted to the chair by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Cartier.

**Mr. Cockburn**, having taken the chair, tendered to the House his grateful acknowledgements for the honour conferred on him in electing him to that position. He said it would be his duty and his pleasure to decide all questions that might be raised in this House, for the consideration of the chair, with the utmost impartiality. The questions which had to be decided were, many of them, of so great importance that he might well shrink from the responsibility of disposing of them, but he felt reassured by the fact that there were hon. gentlemen on the floor who would kindly assist him, gentlemen of long parliamentary experience, who would lend him the

benefit of that experience and enable him to decide such questions as might arise in accordance with the long established practice of Parliament.

**Sir John A. Macdonald** moved that the house do now adjourn till half-past two tomorrow, His Excellency having intimated that he would come down at three. He begged also to take this opportunity of giving notice with respect to the rules to be adopted for the guidance of Parliament that he would follow the course taken in 1841, and would move that a select committee be appointed to frame rules and regulations for the government of the House. The committee would, of course, have to be very carefully chosen. The gentlemen selected would be from both sides of the House and from all portions of the Dominion. They would examine the practice and rules which had prevailed in Canada, and in Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and would report a code of rules to this House, but meanwhile he should move that the practice of Parliament as it prevailed in Canada during last Parliament should be the rules in force until the new rules were reported to and accepted by the House. He might say to those gentlemen who did belong to the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, that the rules of that Parliament were carefully settled about three years ago, and were almost identical with the rules and regulations and standing and sessional orders of the House of Commons, in England, except in so far as they had to be modified to suit the different circumstances of the Province.

The motion was agreed to and the House adjourned till half-past two tomorrow.

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