

these respects to fill the office of Speaker. The members of the present House who were his colleagues in the last parliament will agree with us, I believe, that we can fairly trust that in his hands the good traditions of the House of Commons as they have come to us from the motherland, as we endeavour to maintain them in this country, will be well preserved. I, therefore, beg to move, seconded by Sir William Mulock :

That Robert Franklin Sutherland, Esquire, member representing the electoral district of the north riding of the County of Essex, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER (North Toronto). No one can find fault with the definition of the duties of the Speaker as laid down by my right hon. friend who has made the motion (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The prime duty of the selection rests, of course, upon my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and I have no doubt that he has exercised his best judgment in selecting for the position a gentleman who fulfils his high definitions and ideals of this most important office. Personally, I have not had the pleasure of the acquaintance of the hon. gentleman who has been proposed, but I have been told by my colleagues on this side of the House that they consider him to be a gentleman who, by his independence and from their knowledge of him, will be one who will maintain the high traditions which have so long obtained, and which we trust will for ever obtain in this chamber. Under these circumstances, and with these ideals of the hon. gentleman, I can only say that this side of the House will give every reasonable support to the Speaker who has been selected, and hold up his hands in every way, so long as he carries out the high duties of that office, as I have no doubt he now intends to do.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. The discipline and the dignity of this chamber are in the hands of His Majesty's loyal opposition in common with the gentlemen on the other side of the House, and we are as anxious to have them maintained as they are.

The motion being put to the House,

The Clerk of the House (Mr. T. B. Flint) declared the motion carried in the affirmative nemini contradicente; and Robert Franklin Sutherland, Esquire, member for the north riding of Essex, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Sutherland was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir William Mulock.

Hon. ROBERT FRANKLIN SUTHERLAND (Speaker-elect). Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I desire to express to you my sincere thanks for the honour you have conferred on me by electing me to the  
Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

high position of Speaker to preside over your deliberations. No one can appreciate more highly than do I the honour of this selection. No one, on the other hand, can be more diffident than myself as to my capacity to discharge the duties of the office. At the outset I am very inexperienced, as you are aware, but I trust that that inexperience will in itself be met by your cordial feeling towards me, and that for a time at least I shall be permitted to occupy this position with kindness from both sides of the House. With your aid and co-operation I feel well assured that we will be able to vindicate our rights and privileges according to our established rules and usages, preserve that freedom of speech which is at the foundation of liberty, and at the same time maintain the dignity and decorum of such an assemblage as this. I need hardly say that I enter upon the duties of the office with a full desire to be impartial as between the two sides of the House.

May I be permitted, without at all desiring to suggest to the House that my knowledge of the language enables me to make a speech therein, to attempt to say a few words in French :

(Translation.) Hon. gentlemen, the French language being more familiar to a large number of members of this House, as also to a considerable number of electors in the constituency which I have the honour to represent here, I am glad to be able to tender to you in that language my sincere and grateful acknowledgments for the honour which has just been conferred upon me. Let me add that, with your co-operation and the aid of my English speaking friends, I will endeavour to discharge the duties of that exalted function with all the zeal and devotedness within my power.

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

On motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, January 12, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following letter which he had received :—

Office of the Governor General's Secretary,  
Canada.

Ottawa, January 11, 1905.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to formally open the first session of the tenth parliament of the