

against such an idea. I am not sure that he would not have taken it even as an insult, because those of us who come from the province of Quebec know that my hon. friend carried on a campaign of sulphur and brimstone, not only against the Liberal party, but, in equal measure, against the Conservative party. My hon. friend denounced the nefarious policy of Laurier—which was a matter of course with him—and also the nefarious policy of Borden just as vigorously, perhaps even more vigorously. He assailed without measure the navy, and I think he was pledged to the repeal of the Naval Service Act. I understand that he also opposed every form of participation by Canada in the affairs of Great Britain. He entered this House still breathing heavily, threatening still. But when once in this House he took his seat behind the Treasury benches—and behind the Treasury benches things which he had condemned took with him another shape. No one heard him in this House denounce the nefarious policy of Borden. I think he ceased to denounce the navy. Certainly he acquiesced in the participation of Canada in the war. He became a repentant sinner, and I never saw a sinner—and I have met some sinners in my time—who derived so much comfort out of repentance. My hon. friend never did penance in sackcloth and ashes. He was within the rays of the ministerial sun; he luxuriated in the tall and fat grasses of ministerial pasture; he was the recipient of some marked ministerial favours. I do not say this by way of complaining of his conversion—far be it from me to do so. If I have any fault to find with him it is that his conversion did not go far enough, because I am not aware that he ever, in the County of Dorchester, confessed his sins to his electors and begged pardon for having so led them astray in 1911.

But this is a matter which more concerns gentlemen on the other side of the House than those on our side. To-day my hon. friend is to be elected by this House to the chief office which is in its power. He has all the abilities and talents to perform the duties well—I give him this credit. It has been my privilege to know him for some time, even before he entered this House, and it is a pleasure to me to believe—indeed, to be sure—that he will discharge the duties of the office with credit and in the manner of his predecessors. However we may have differed from him in the past, the moment he assumes this Chair he becomes Speaker of the House of Commons, and entitled to all

honour and all respect; and, so far as this side of the House is concerned, it will be our duty—nay, it will be our pleasure—to do what His Majesty's Opposition always have done so long as I have been in this House—we shall deem it our duty to give him every assistance to maintain the dignity and traditions of his office, and as well to maintain the dignities and privileges and rights of the House of Commons.

The motion being put to the House,

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, nemine contradicente, and Albert Sévigny, Esquire, member for the electoral division of Dorchester, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Sévigny was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by Sir George Foster and Hon. T. Chase Casgrain.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: Allow me to thank you for having raised me to the honourable position of Speaker of this House. While I appreciate more than I can express the distinction conferred upon me, I am fully aware of the responsibilities and the difficulties that are attached thereto.

With your kind indulgence and advice, the task which I am called upon to assume will be made lighter; and, for my part, I will endeavour to be worthy of the goodwill you have manifested towards me in electing me unanimously to the Chair; it will be also my aim to justify the confidence you have reposed in me.

My predecessor had the advantage of many years of experience in this House, which was of great benefit to us all. His decisions, as well as those of the other distinguished legislators who have occupied the position of Speaker of this honourable House, will assist me in maintaining the dignity of this office, and in presiding, with justice and impartiality, over your deliberations, as well as in preserving the integrity and honour of the House of Commons.

The Sergeant-at-Arms then laid the Mace upon the Table of the House.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Hon. Esioff Leon Patenaude, member-elect for the electoral district of Hochelaga, by Hon. T. Chase Casgrain and Hon. Sir George Foster.