

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, February 4, 1932.

THIRD SESSION—SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 4th day of February, 1932, met this day at Ottawa, for the despatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency 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.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

VACANCY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess I received communications from two members, notifying me that the following vacancy had occurred in the representation, viz:

Of John Francis Buckley, member for the electoral district of Athabaska, by decease.

I accordingly issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral district.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the clerk of the house has received from the chief electoral officer certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz:

Of Charles Bourgeois, Esquire, for the electoral district of Three Rivers-St. Maurice.

Of Humphrey Mitchell, Esquire, for the electoral district of Hamilton East.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Charles Bourgeois, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Three Rivers-St. Maurice, introduced by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett and Hon. Mr. Guthrie.

Humphrey Mitchell, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Hamilton East, introduced by J. S. Woodsworth and A. A. Heaps.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In addressing you for the first time, I desire to express my gratification at having been selected by His Majesty as his representative in the Dominion of Canada, and to acknowledge with profound thanks the reception which has been accorded to me by the people of this country. I accept it as a proof of their loyalty and devotion to the crown. I shall count it a happiness as well as a duty to associate myself with you in your labours for the welfare of Canada.

You enter upon your duties at a time of continuing and universal economic disturbance and distress. World conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people. But I rejoice that their resolute adherence to policies designed for the welfare of the nation has minimized the adverse influence of external economic forces. This period of trial has shown the Canadian situation to be fundamentally