

office we should, I submit, increase Mr. Speaker's remuneration accordingly and he should vacate all directorships. In my opinion this House should do all in its power to make the Chair as respected in Canada as it is in England. The Speaker's office should command the respect of all political parties and of all shades of opinion in the country. What did the Right Hon. Campbell-Bannerman do in Great Britain in 1905? He wisely decided that neither the Speaker nor any cabinet minister should any longer be a shareholder or a director in any corporation, bank, trust, combine or transportation company, and this practice has been carried out ever since for the reason that these concerns are constantly seeking favours and appealing to parliament for special legislation and privileges. The Hon. Mr. Crerar, who at one time was leader of the Progressive party in this House, was a director of the Home Bank in this country which came to this House asking for legislation of that character and the bank was wrecked. I do not believe that this sort of thing is in the public interest. Far better, in my opinion, is it that the Speaker should dissociate himself from any directorships whatever, and to that end this House should deal as generously with his office as possible, increasing his salary and allowances wherever necessary.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) is just back from the old country with his pet Magna Charta of liberty and declaration of independence as it were. Let me impress upon him the importance of beginning right in his precedents in this new parliament and independent nation in a matter of such importance as this. Let us not create any undesirable precedents in relation to the presiding officer of the House. The Prime Minister, as I say, has come back now from the old land where he has been making so many speeches, and where he has secured this magnificent Magna Charta—a term misused and of which we have been hearing so much. We are now said to be a nation ready made. Let him see to it, therefore, that whoever may be chosen as Speaker in this House shall give up directorships and be free of criticism in this regard. I know that several thousands of the people in the province I come from suffered in the Home Bank disaster under Mr. Crerar's directorship, and this only emphasizes the importance of the point I am making. I have no objection to the personal qualifications of the nominee; I admire him and respect his ability. But I submit that this motion, if adopted, would constitute an unfortunate departure from British practice.

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, nemine contradicente, and Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, member for the electoral division of Gaspé, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Honourable Mr. Lemieux was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King and Honourable Ernest Lapointe.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: Madam, fellow members of the House of Commons, for the third time I have been called to the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons. Let me assure you how deeply I appreciate your nomination. If the honour is great, greater still are the responsibilities.

After thirty years of continuous service in this House, where it has been my privilege to observe men and events, I more than ever realize that, in the discharge of my duties, justice, fair play and strict impartiality will always exercise a moderating influence on political passions. And need I say that the respect for parliamentary institutions in a young democracy like ours is too precious a boon not to be constantly set before my eyes as a guiding star. It is in that spirit that I intend to serve, placing my trust in the goodwill and co-operation of my fellow members. It will be my honour and duty to maintain those ancient privileges, liberties, customs and usages—in a word to live up to those noble traditions, the fruit of so many centuries of struggle, which have come to us as a legacy from the mother country and now stand as the beacon of modern civilization.

Mes chers collègues, pour la troisième fois, vous m'avez offert la présidence de la Chambre des communes.

En retour, permettez-moi de vous dire combien j'apprécie ce témoignage de confiance de votre part. Sans doute, l'honneur est grand, mais combien plus grandes encore les responsabilités!

Après trente années de service continu dans cette Chambre—où j'ai eu l'avantage d'observer hommes et choses—je me rends compte que dans l'exercice de mes fonctions, la justice, le franc jeu, l'impartialité sont le frein le plus salutaire au déchaînement des passions politiques. J'ajoute que le prestige des institutions parlementaires, dans une jeune démocratie comme la nôtre, est un bien trop désirable pour que je n'en sois pas constamment pénétré.

Voilà dans quelles dispositions d'esprit j'entends servir—recherchant votre concours et m'appuyant sur votre bon vouloir.