

The Honorable the Speaker acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Senate had laid upon the Table, a Certificate of the Commissioner, setting forth that the Honorable Samuel Merner, a Member of the Senate, had made and subscribed the Declaration of Qualification required by the British North America Act, 1867.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

The House was resumed.

His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, Marquis of Lansdowne, in the County of Somerset, Earl of Wycombe, of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Caln and Calstone in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping-Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c., being seated on the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons, and acquaint that House,—“It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House,”

Who, being come,

The Honourable Joseph Alderic Ouimet said:—

**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:**

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

The Honorable the Speaker of the Senate said:—

**MR. SPEAKER,**

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

It is my pleasing duty on the opening of a new Parliament to congratulate you on the general prosperity of the country and on the prospect of a coming season of peace and progress.