

ment party, now the Conservatives, occupy the seats to the right of the Speaker and the opposition party, at present the Liberals, are on his left. The Nationalist party, or at least those who were elected in the different ridings of Quebec as supporters of a separate policy, have thrown in their lot with the Conservatives and are found on the Government side of the House. For this reason the number of members of the united parties became too large for all to be seated on the right side of the chamber and thus we find some of the Conservatives and Nationalists occupying the vacant seats on the opposition side.

Above the Speaker's chair is situated the press gallery. Through the writings of those many reporters seated there, the general public is made cognizant of all that passes in their Parliament, a few hours after it takes place. In this way they can follow the moves of their representatives in the House and thereby they can judge for themselves the ability of the men whom they have elected.

The Debates Reporters are seated at small tables about the centre of the room, directly in front of the Speaker. These men report all the debates of the House and these proceedings are then printed in both French and English for distribution to the members. Behind them is seated the Sergeant-at-Arms, the principal executive officer of the Commons. His duty it is to direct the messengers and pages as they fulfil the minor wants of the assembly, and also to look after the furniture of the buildings. Like his many young assistants, he is fitted out in a dress suit, but in addition, he carries a sword at his side. The Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons corresponds to the gentleman usher of the black rod in the Senate.

At three o'clock the members take their places and the Speaker mounts his throne. The mace is placed on the table by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Speaker, who holds the dignified and responsible office of permanent chairman of the House, then commences the proceedings with prayers, which are taken from the Church of England liturgy. The Speaker, on finishing the prayer, puts a motion in regular form before the house, by reading it from the chair, and in this way lays the question open for debate. An amendment is then usually proposed to the motion and every member who wishes has an opportunity to speak on the subject. In order not to prolong the debate on any one question, a member cannot rise to speak a second time, before the House, until such a motion as, "that this house adjourn the previous question," is moved, seconded and carried.