

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Monday, December 2, 1907.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Is my hon. friend the Secretary of State in a position to lay on the table the correspondence between the Imperial authorities, Newfoundland and Canada, as to the submission to the Hague Conference of the fisheries question?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not know that there is really any correspondence. There was an inquiry from Newfoundland whether we would concur with them in submitting the case, and I replied at once that we would. Whatever papers there are will be brought down. I think there are only one or two letters on the subject. Whatever there is I will have brought down.

THE ADDRESS.

MOTION.

The Order of the Day being called:

Consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the Fourth Session of the Tenth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—Hon. gentlemen. One of the principal features of the organic law of this parliament decrees that its proceedings shall be conducted in one or the other language spoken by the two great elements of our population, and the custom sanctioned by constant usage since confederation provides that the indispensable function which marks the commencement of each session, the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, shall be either proposed or seconded in the French language.

I should, less than anyone else, make an exception to the law and disregard the custom, because I am pleased to recognize the fact that my elevation to the Senate is a tribute to the French element of Ontario, more than a recognition of my past services and my feeble merits. Therefore, it

is just and proper that the first words which I have the honour to address to this honourable House shall be in my mother tongue and the language of those of my fellow countrymen whom I am called upon to represent more particularly in the Senate.

For them and for myself I hasten to express my profound gratitude and my own appreciation of the honour which has been done them as well as myself by the government of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in choosing one of them to replace in the Senate the Hon. Charles Eusèbe Casgrain, the first French Canadian senator coming from Ontario, and who through twenty years occupied a seat in this Chamber with such dignity and so honourably. My predecessor entertained a high conception of the great honour and real importance of the position of a senator, and he also discharged in a perfect manner the duties and the responsibilities which that position imposed. It shall be my ambition that some day I shall merit a eulogy as sincere and as just as that which I am pleased to address to his memory.

I also owe thanks to the hon. leader of this House for the honour conferred in inviting me to propose the address in reply to the speech which His Excellency made at the opening of this session—and I am impelled to say how I have been moved and gratified at the generous and cordial welcome which I have received from the hon. members of this House, a welcome which has been accorded me above all for the reason to which I have made allusion, and also a little, at least I trust I may be permitted to believe, because I have had the good fortune to be known to all of you and to have shared with you, though in the other Chamber, for a great many years, the work of the Canadian parliament.

The speech from the Throne this year, is singularly remarkable, and has, I am certain, already elicited throughout the country, sentiments of very lively satisfaction and profound thanks, first and above all, to Divine Providence, who has so generously treated our beautiful country for so many years, and particularly during this which will soon end, and also to the excellent government which has so wisely and patriotically made fruitful the abundant benevolence of the Universal Giver. We