

Preface

This is the seventh volume in the series of reconstituted debates of the House of Commons, and represents another milestone in the ongoing project to reconstruct the parliamentary record from 1867 to 1874. This project was initiated in the 1960s by Eric Spicer, Parliamentary Librarian at the time, to mark the country's Centennial.

From the early years of Confederation to 1875, when the House of Commons began to report its debates officially, speeches delivered in the House were reported in major newspapers of the day, notably the *Ottawa Times* and the *Toronto Globe*. Parliamentary librarians clipped the reports and preserved them in scrapbooks; these became known as the "Scrapbook Debates", and have provided most of the source material in producing the present volume.

Publication of this volume of the reconstituted debates, representing the Second Session of the Second Parliament, brings to light a period of parliamentary history presenting numerous precedents and insights for readers of Canadian political history. As Parliamentary Librarian, I take great pride in continuing this process of filling the gap in Canada's early parliamentary record.

I am grateful to the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons for his recognition of the ongoing value of this work. Thanks are due to Dr. David Farr, one of three eminent Canadian historians who over the years have painstakingly reconstructed this material from primary sources. Thanks also go to Lynn Brodie, Director General, Information and Document Resource Service, to our dedicated Library staff, and to our parliamentary partners for their support and invaluable contribution to the project.

Sonia L'Heureux
Parliamentary Librarian
Ottawa, 2013