

House of Commons Debates.

FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, February 1, 1900.

The Parliament, which had been prorogued from time to time, was now commanded to assemble on the 1st day of February, 1900, for the despatch of business.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod :

Mr. SPEAKER,—

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of your honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went into the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned,

VACANCIES.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that during recess I received communications from several members notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation, viz. :

Of the Honourable William Bullock Ives, Member for the Electoral District of Sherbrooke, by decease ;

Of the Honourable C. A. Geoffrion, Member for the Electoral District of Chambly and Verchères, by decease ;

Of the Honourable Sir James D. Edgar, Member for the Electoral District of West Ontario, by decease ;

Of Isaac Rinfret, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Lotbinière, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown ;

Of Henri Bourassa, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Labelle, by resignation ;

Of Cléophas Beauvolet, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Berthier, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make

out new writs of election for the said electoral districts respectively.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have also the honour to inform the House that during the recess the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz. :

Of Henri Bourassa, Esquire, for the Electoral District of Labelle ;

Of Victor Geoffrion, Esquire, for the Electoral District of Chambly and Verchères ;

Of Isaac James Gould, Esquire, for the Electoral District of the West Riding of the County of Ontario ;

Of Joseph Edouard Archambault, Esquire, for the Electoral District of Berthier.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

Joseph Edouard Archambault, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Berthier, by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte).

Isaac James Gould, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of the West Riding of Ontario, by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock).

Henri Bourassa, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Labelle, by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), and Mr. Monet.

Victor Geoffrion, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Chambly and Verchères, introduced by the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte).

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform this House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day, in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, and, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the speech, which is as follows :—