

tice going to make up his mind within the next ten or fifteen days? Has he not all the material and all the information now upon which he is going to make these appointments, or is he going hereafter to British Columbia for information to enable him to select the men whom he is going to appoint immediately after the next provincial election?

Mr. AYLESWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a correction of a statement that I understand the hon. gentleman has attributed to me. I understand that he attributed to me the statement that I had more applicants for these positions than there are positions to be filled. I said nothing of the kind and I beg to assure the hon. members of this House that there is not an applicant for one of these positions that I would think of recommending.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. Perhaps I did not make it clear, but what the hon. gentleman did say, I think, was that he could name more good men suitable for these positions than there were positions to fill.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at four o'clock p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, November 15, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Hon. Mr. Justice Pelletier and the Hon. Mr. Justice Lemieux, two of the judges selected for the trial of election petitions pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, a report relating to the election for the electoral district of Montmagny, by which the said election petition was dismissed and the sitting member declared duly elected.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Edmond Fortier, Esq., member for the electoral district of Lotbinière, introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. L. P. Brodeur.

REPORT PRESENTED.

The Forty-second Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries relating to Marine.—Hon. L. P. Brodeur.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That the order for the consideration of the motion for an address to His Excellency the

Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session be now called, and that the same until disposed of have precedence over all other business except the introduction of bills and questions.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. A. ECREMENT (Berthier). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, custom will be my excuse for being so bold. Custom requires that some young, unexperienced member be entrusted with the task of commenting the speech from the Throne. It affords an opportunity for teaching him a lesson which may turn out to be profitable to him; besides, it affords an opportunity for the House to show indulgence, the greatest virtue of men and especially of leaders of men.

I feel deeply grateful for the honour bestowed upon me, and which the electoral district of Berthier, whose representative I am, is especially entitled to claim for itself. But I have good reason to hesitate at undertaking such a task, considering that I am expected in the course of a few minutes to review a series of questions which it will take the House the whole session to dispose of.

Bound as I am to merely give a very general idea of the government's policy, I should certainly be in fear of minimizing its importance by too summary a judgment, were I not aware that experienced and leading politicians are to follow me up and take occasion of this period of peace and tranquility, to deal fully with these great undertakings referred to in the speech from the Throne.

Such a task is not always congenial to a beginner; many difficulties are in his way, some of which are personal to himself; a youth is often taken to task for being youthful. But if years impart experience, youth endows one with a capacity for work and a willingness to work; and I would feel some satisfaction if though everything else might be wanting, the quality of sincerity was found to inspire my utterances.

It is customary, Mr. Speaker, at the opening of each session, to review briefly the general condition of the country. It would be unbecoming on my part to break away from the custom generally followed, and particularly at a time when complying with the usage cannot but be an agreeable task, since, as several of my predecessors have done, I am bound to submit a favourable report.

On the other hand, however pleasant the task of pointing out the really good features in a policy, I must say that it is not solely with the object of eulogizing the government that I intend showing the connection between the wisdom of the policy they propound and the satisfactory state of business.

We have just emerged from a very trying period of depression. Our neighbours to the south have been severely shaken up;