

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: I beg to tender to this House my sincere and hearty thanks for the high honour it has conferred upon me by electing me as its Speaker. It shall be my pleasure, as well as my duty, to endeavour to deserve that high honour by dealing with all questions which come before me in my official character with firmness and with impartiality. I am fully sensible of my unfitness for the position, but I rely confidently upon the co-operation of hon. members on both sides of this House to assist me in maintaining and in preserving our rights and privileges, and in preserving the freedom and dignity of debate according to ancient usage.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SERJEANT-AT-ARMS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Serjeant-at-arms has appointed Louis Charles Panet, Esquire, with my approval, to be his deputy.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns to-day, it is proper that we should give expression to our sympathy in respect to the loss which this House has sustained in the death of four of its members, who have passed away since the last session. They are, as hon. members know, the Hon. Thomas Chase Casgrain, Postmaster General; Lieut.-Col. George Harold Baker, member for Brome; Mr. William Gray, member for London; and Mr. Charles H. Lovell, member for Stanstead. Mr. Casgrain, who was not only a colleague, but a warm personal friend of mine, had a distinguished record in the public life of this country. He entered the Provincial political arena in Quebec in 1886, and, I believe, continued in that arena until he was elected to this Parliament in 1896, the year in which I entered public life. It was then that I first became acquainted with him, and I had the privilege of enjoying his intimate friendship ever afterwards. He filled several very important and distinguished positions in public life, among others those of Attorney General of his native province, Battonier-General of the province of Quebec, Chairman of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, and Postmaster General of Canada, a position which he filled for more than two years. The very great ability of Mr. Casgrain, whether at the bar or in public life, was universally admitted; and his high char-

acter, his fine spirit, his splendid enthusiasm for everything that interested him, and his charming personality were such as to endear him very closely indeed to those who had the privilege of knowing him intimately and who were associated with him in political affairs. He also, I believe, endeared himself to those who, although opposed to him in public life, had the privilege of knowing him intimately. He had not been in robust health for nearly a year before his death. Last spring his condition became worse, and he was obliged to take a long rest from his public duties; indeed, he was not sure whether the condition of his health might not then bring about his enforced retirement from public life. However, he came back from England with renewed strength, and took up with his accustomed devotion and energy the work of his department. The last occasion on which I had the privilege of speaking to him was in the city of Quebec, where we both addressed the same public meeting. I was shocked at his apparent illness at that time, and strongly urged him to take a rest, a long respite from work. He promised to do so, and I next heard from him shortly after my return from the West when on Christmas day, although then very ill, he sent me a message of greeting and remembrance. I mourn his loss as that of a very dear friend and I am sure that all the members of this House will join in conveying their deep sympathy to his widow and the members of his family.

I did not know Mr. Lovell so well. He had not been in Parliament very long. I knew better his father who preceded him in public life. He was, I believe, a man well informed in public affairs, and although he did not often address the House, I realize that he commanded the complete confidence of those who entrusted him with their mandate in this Parliament. To his family as well, I am sure we will all join in the expression of our sympathy.

I had known Mr. William Gray, of London, for a long time before he entered public life. He had been intimately associated for many years with the political affairs of the constituency which he afterwards represented. He was a man of great energy, who took a keen interest in public affairs; a strong partisan, but a man of warm and generous instincts. I deplore the loss which the House has sustained in his death, and his family and children will also receive our deep sympathy.

I had known Lieutenant-Colonel George Harold Baker for some years before he en-