

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved :

" That Select Standing Committees of the House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes :—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Immigration and Colonization; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon; with power to send for persons, papers and records."

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 3:45 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

FRIDAY, 10th February, 1882.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

The following Members, having previously taken the Oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took their seats in the House, viz.:—

DAVID IRVINE, Member for the Electoral District of Carleton, N.B., introduced by Mr. Blake and Mr. Burpee (Sunbury).

Hon. J. J. O. ABBOTT, Member for the Electoral District of Argenteuil, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Pope (Compton).

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. BERGERON. Mr. Speaker, I feel that, in rising to move the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, I am not altogether in the same position as those members who have preceded me in former days in the fulfilment of this honorable duty. It is the custom to require that these speeches be made by recently elected members, who never fail to claim all possible indulgence from their colleagues who do not know them. Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to say that I am not in need of the same indulgence, for no one understands better than I do at the present time my unfitness to worthily accomplish the duty that has devolved upon me. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am glad to find myself once more in the midst of old friends, whom I have learnt to esteem from the time that I took my seat amidst them. I claim their friendship and trust that they will not be too exacting, should I fail in being as eloquent as one should be who is entrusted to move the Address. I would have feared, Mr. Speaker, to assume the responsibility which now weighs on me, had I not remembered the electors whom I have the honor of representing, and who have the right to expect from me all that may be expected of a representative who wishes to fulfil his duties conscientiously. The honor attached to the position which I occupy is fully

theirs, for I will never forget that it was they who elected me when I was still but a very young man, entrusting me with their most precious interests, and that, in spite of those who pretended that years enough had not passed over my head to allow of my serving my country in Parliament. When I was asked to move this Address, Mr. Speaker, a thought occurred to me, and a similar one must have arisen in your mind, as well as in the minds of hon. members who are listening to me, to wit: that the policy of the Government must be a good one when the Government can entrust it to such weak hands as mine, and that its measures must be excellent for it to ask lips possessing so little eloquence as mine to move its adoption by this honorable House. For assuredly, Mr. Speaker, if we look back for a few years, and if we draw a comparison between the present and the then condition of the country, we find that the Government which rules to-day has well deserved of the country. As stated in the Speech delivered by His Excellency, the country is enjoying peace and prosperity; our farmers have been blessed with abundant crops, which they have sold at good prices; and manufactories, which had been closed, have re-opened and are in full working order, whilst new ventures are being made every day. Thousands of workingmen, who were starving four years ago, are now earning a good living for themselves and their families. Capitalists no longer fear to put their money into all kinds of commercial operations, confident as they are in the policy of the day and in the future which encourages them. As His Excellency has so aptly said, we cannot sufficiently thank Providence for all its gifts, nor must we forget to thank it for having granted us so good a Government to preside over the destinies of our country; for, Mr. Speaker, whereas the Canadian nation seems to enjoy an era of unprecedented prosperity, and that happiness hovers over us, we have regretfully to note the fact that the neighboring Republic, albeit enjoying much prosperity, has witnessed during the past year an abominable crime against republican institutions. A man who presided over the destinies of the United States, and who had been elected to that position by the free vote of a nation, was foully murdered by another, who has just been deservedly convicted by a jury of his countrymen, and who will, in a few months, expiate his crime by hanging. Americans have not been the only ones to deplore Guiteau's act, but protests have been heard from all parts of the world, and sympathy has been expressed from every quarter. His Excellency, who takes a great interest in the destinies of this country, has, during recess, visited our great North-West. His report thereon is most encouraging, and proves the wisdom of the policy of the men who have governed Canada since Confederation. The Canadian people, Mr. Speaker, are not ignorant of the sacrifices which have been made, for several years past, in order to open those immense northern regions, which, as said by His Excellency, are so splendid in their fertility. The distinguished men who said that the future of our country was there, are about to see their predictions realized far beyond what they had expected. Those immense tracts of land, which could drain all Europe's population, are now known to the whole world. Our North-West is making rapid progress, under the able and energetic direction of those who are now at the head of public affairs. Towns and villages are springing up where but a few years ago stood the bare prairie; and the territories are being filled up so rapidly that, as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, it would become necessary to divide them and designate them by names which will better express their situation. This, Mr. Speaker, resulted naturally from the National Policy inaugurated by the Government; and I remember when the discussion on the Tariff took place, that eminent members of this House predicted that the North-West would be the necessary and natural outlet for the industrial products of the older