

REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.

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

REPRESENTATION OF CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. LAURIER. I would call the attention of the Government to the fact that the returning officer for the County of Chicoutimi has not yet made his report to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the present member elect, Mr. Savard, is deprived of his seat. The election took place on the 5th of March, and there can be no reason why the report should not have been in a long time ago.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Clerk informs me that it is on its way. It has been telegraphed for. I do not know the cause of the delay.

Motion agreed to: and House adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 1st May, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, a certificate of the election and return of PAUL VILMOND SAVARD for the Electoral District of Chicoutimi and Saguenay.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. BOWELL. With the consent of the House, I desire, before the Orders of the Day are called, to move the usual motion for the appointment of a Joint Committee to supervise the Report of the Debates. There are but few changes. I propose to substitute Mr. LaRivière for Mr. Vanasse and Dr. Cameron of Inverness for Mr. Tupper, who wishes to be relieved of the duties pertaining to this committee, and to place Mr. Skinner on the committee instead of Mr. Ellis. The motion is as follows:—

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Reports of the Debates of this House during the present Session, with power to report from time to time; to be composed of Messrs. Béchard, Cameron (Inverness), Charlton, Davin, Desjardins (Hochelaga), Innes, LaRivière, Prior, Scriver, Skinner, Somerville, Taylor, Weldon, and White (Cardwell).

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman was kind enough to mention this matter to me, and at the moment I saw no objection to the names he proposed, but, on hearing the changes he proposes, I find that the proportion of the two parties on this committee is somewhat altered from the proportion last year. I find that the Opposition has one member less on the committee than it had last year, and it seems to me that if any change were made, it ought to be made in the other direction.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

I would, therefore, suggest that the motion should be left over until to-morrow.

Motion postponed.

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. HAZEN. In rising to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne with which His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to open the First Session of the Seventh Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, I feel that, as a young member of the House, and as a member without experience in parliamentary matters, I may well be pardoned if I follow in the well-worn footsteps of gentlemen who, in previous Sessions, have preceded me in this duty, and pursue the time-honoured custom of asking the kind indulgence of the House in the remarks which I am about to make. It is well understood that the formality of a Speech from the Throne—a formality which, like many of our institutions, is derived from the mother country—is intended to enable a brief reference to be made to matters of administration and to convey to Parliament an idea of the important measures which will be submitted for their consideration, and though, in the Speech with which His Excellency opened this Parliament yesterday, the subjects referred to were not very numerous, they have yet, I feel, so important a bearing and so comprehensive a view in regard to the welfare of this country of ours that of this Speech it cannot be said, as has been said in criticism of others in the past, that it is more remarkable for its omissions than for what it contains. With the two first paragraphs of that Speech I feel satisfied that hon. members of this House, sitting on either side of your Honour, will agree, and that the sentiments expressed in them will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all who have heard them. It is very important indeed in all legislative bodies that the deliberations should be carried on wisely, harmoniously and in a spirit of fairness, and it is especially important in a young country like this Canada of ours, standing, as I may say, on the very threshold of its career of welfare and prosperity, that the legislation should be not only of a progressive character, but should be along the lines which have characterized the legislation of this country for the past twelve years, and which have resulted in the development of its industries and natural resources and the amelioration and the betterment of its people. It is pleasing to know that the season which has just opened has opened so auspiciously for the interests and industries of the people of this country. It is pleasing to hear the reports made from every part of this Dominion, from the north and the south, from the east and the west, that there is every prospect that the farmers and the husbandmen of Canada will have their labours abundantly rewarded by the yield of a splendid harvest. With us in this country, as in every other country where agriculture is the mainstay of the population and the true basis of the nation's wealth, the quality of the harvest is the guarantee of the wealth of the people, and it is of the utmost importance that the crops should be successful. It is, therefore, to be hoped that this season will justify the hopes expressed