

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Monday, September 1, 1919.

The Parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 1st day of September, 1919, met this day at Ottawa for the despatch of business.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from Mr. Arthur F. Sladen, Deputy of the Governor General's Secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber at 3 p.m., on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion Parliament.

A message was delivered by Colonel Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

VACANCIES.

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

Of William Folger Nickle, Esq.: Member for the Electoral District of Kingston, by resignation;

Of Simon Fraser Tolmie, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Victoria City, consequent upon the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown, to wit: the office of Minister of Agriculture;

Of John Gillanders Turriff, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Assiniboia, consequent upon being summoned to the Senate;

Of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., Member for the Electoral District of Quebec, East, by decease;

Of Joseph Read, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Prince, (P.E.I.), by decease;

Of Hon. Frank Broadstreet Carvell, Member for the Electoral District of Victoria and Carleton, consequent upon 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.

OATHS OF OFFICE.

Bill No. 1, respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, introduced and read the first time.—Sir George Foster.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the 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. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In this, his first visit to our Dominion, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at once renews happy associations with his comrades of the Canadian army, and at the same time undertakes the important duty of making himself acquainted at first hand with the resources and development of our country, and with the ideals and aspirations of our people. The warm and sincere welcome which everywhere greets him is an assurance that the ties which unite our country with the Motherland and the other dominions in a great community of nations were never closer or firmer than they are to-day.

The urgency of proceeding immediately to the consideration of the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany, signed at Versailles on the 28th day of June, 1919, has compelled me to summon you to renewed labours which I trust will not be of long duration.

My advisers are of the opinion that this treaty ought not to be ratified on behalf of