

the three provinces respectively at the union, in relation to the issuers of writs and returning officers—apply to the first election of members of the House of Commons.

(d), *In the case of a vacancy*: S. 43. provides that the provincial law as explained in notes (b), (c), shall continue in force until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides.

*As to election of Speaker of House of Commons.*

44. The House of Commons on its first assembling after a General Election shall proceed with all practicable Speed to elect One of its Members to be Speaker.

*As to filling up vacancy in office of Speaker.*

45. In case of a Vacancy happening in the Office of Speaker by Death, Resignation or otherwise, the House of Commons shall with all practicable Speed proceed to elect another of its Members to be Speaker.

*Speaker to preside.*

46. The Speaker shall preside at all Meetings of the House of Commons.

*Provision in case of absence of Speaker.*

47. Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, in case of the Absence for any Reason of the Speaker from the Chair of the House of Commons for a Period of Forty-eight consecutive Hours, the House may elect another of its Members to act as Speaker, and the Member so elected shall during the Continuance of such Absence of the Speaker have and execute all the Powers, Privileges and Duties of Speaker.

*Quorum of House of Commons.*

48. The Presence of at least Twenty Members of the House of Commons shall be necessary to constitute a Meeting of the house for the Exercise of its Powers; and for that Purpose the Speaker shall be reckoned as a Member.

*Voting in House of Commons.*

49. Questions arising in the House of Commons shall be decided by a

Majority of Voices other than that of the Speaker, and when the Voices are equal, but not otherwise, the Speaker shall have a Vote.

NOTES:

Section 87 of the B.N.A. Act provides that S.S. 44—49 inclusive "shall extend and apply to the legislative assemblies of Ontario and Quebec."

The following "Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the House of Commons of Canada" are quoted to explain the "Powers, Privileges and Duties" of the speaker:

1. The time for the ordinary meeting of the house is at three o'clock in the afternoon of each sitting day, and if at that hour there be no quorum, Mr. Speaker may take the chair and adjourn.

3. When the house adjourns, the members shall keep their seats until the speaker has left the chair.

8. The speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the house.

10. Every member desiring to speak is to rise in his place, uncovered, and address himself to Mr. Speaker.

17. When the speaker is putting a question, no member shall walk out of, or across, the house, or make any noise or disturbance; and when a member is speaking, no member shall interrupt him, except to order, nor pass between him and the chair; and no member may pass between the chair and the table, nor between the chair and the mace, when the mace has been taken off the table by the sergeant.

*Standing orders of the House of Commons of Canada.*

No. 2. *Resolved*: That the member elected to serve as deputy speaker and chairman of committees shall be required to possess the full and practical knowledge of the language which is not that of the speaker for the time being.