

surround me, to afford him every support consistent, with a due regard for parliamentary privileges, which we can afford him.

Motion agreed to.

MR. PATRICK : I declare Mr. Blanchet duly chosen to occupy the Chair of this honourable House as its Speaker.

Mr. BLANCHET was then conducted from his place to the Chair by Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD and Mr. TILLEY.

Then Mr. SPEAKER ELECT, standing on the upper step, said: I humbly thank the House for the great honour which they have just conferred on me in electing me unanimously to be their Speaker. I shall endeavour to be worthy of so responsible and important a position. In cases where experience and knowledge of parliamentary usage and law will be required, I will ask the advice and assistance of those members of this House who have been trained in parliamentary practice. And, in presiding over the deliberations of this Assembly, I will act with the strictest impartiality, according to the laws of Parliament, and in conformity with the will of this House.

And then the Mace, which before lay under the table, was laid upon the table.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD then said: Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in congratulating you upon your election. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

House adjourned at

Twenty-five minutes after

Three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 14th Feb., 1879.

The House met at Three o' clock.

PRAYERS.

The Speaker Elect having taken the Chair,

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

“MR. SPEAKER,

“His Excellency the Governor-General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.”

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker Elect, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber;

Then the HONOURABLE JOSEPH GODERIC BLANCHET, SPEAKER Elect, said:

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

“The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

“If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.”

The SPEAKER of the SENATE then said:

“MR. SPEAKER,

“I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor-General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's person and Government, and, not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges.

“I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.”

Then His Excellency the Governor-General was pleased to open Parliament by a Speech from the Throne.

And the House being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported that the House had been in the Senate Chamber, and that he had, in their names and on their behalf, made the usual claim of privileges, which His Excellency had been pleased to confirm to them.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House a judgment, bearing date 7th August, 1878, of the Hon. Mr. Justice Plamondon, one of the Judges selected for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, in the matter of the Election Petition for the Electoral District of Drummond and Arthabaska; also a certificate and report from the Hon. Mr. Justice Armour, one of the Judges selected for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to the Dominion