

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, January 25, 1934

FIFTH SESSION—SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 25th day of January, 1934, met this day at Ottawa, for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, 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.

VACANCY

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

Of Thomas Merritt Cayley, member for the electoral district of South Oxford, by decease.

I accordingly issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral district.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the clerk of the house has received from the chief electoral officer certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz:

Of Aimé Boucher, for the electoral district of Yamaska.

Of Joseph Enoil Michaud, for the electoral district of Restigouche-Madawaska.

Of John Angus MacMillan, for the electoral district of Mackenzie.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Aimé Boucher, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Yamaska, introduced by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Hon. Ernest Lapointe.

Joseph Enoil Michaud, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Restigouche-Madawaska, introduced by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Hon. P. J. Veniot.

John Angus MacMillan, Esquire, for the electoral district of Mackenzie, introduced by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Hon. W. R. Motherwell.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Explain.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, the bill refers to oaths of office, and usually has remained in the first stage for the last half century. I move that it be now read a first time.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister if the purpose of the introduction of the bill is not to assert the right of the Commons to deal with affairs of concern to its members before taking up any matters which may be of concern to the crown?

Mr. BENNETT: I believe that is the theory, Mr. Speaker, but I should judge that one who has occupied the high office of Prime Minister is quite as conversant with that subject as I am.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.