

that the policy enunciated by them in the recent election was a good one, or, at all events, that it should have a fair trial—yet, at the same time, he was above all a member of Parliament, and, as such, inclined to oppose at the very outset any attempt on the part of the Government to interfere, or exercise in any degree the powers or authority which they derived from their positions as Commissioners or representatives of the Crown in the management of the internal affairs of this House. Let them, at least, have one place in this country where they should be free to express their opinions and exercise their delegated authority. He took this opportunity to refer to a personal matter. They knew that a number of newspapers had connected his name with the Speakership, and for that reason his attention had been drawn to the position of that officer. But he would say that, neither from the Government, nor any member of the Government, had he received any advances in reference to the Speakership, nor had he sought the position. He confessed that, when he saw a disposition, no matter where, to encroach upon the privileges of Parliament, he was not disposed to assent or acquiesce. It was the duty of every member to resist any improper assumption of authority in this body. It was a question that ought to be discussed with reference to the Statutes and their rules, which, if defective, should be amended. He trusted that would be the result of this discussion. He did not think that the hon. gentleman came up to Ottawa on the eve of the meeting of Parliament to appoint gentlemen to certain positions in this House, against the public interest. He exercised an authority which legally belonged to him, though it might have been an indiscreet exercise of authority. However, all these matters would probably be before them when the papers were sent down, and when probably they would be referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections for consideration.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSIONERS.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, and it is as follows:—

“LORNE.

“The Governor-General transmits to the House of Commons an approved Minute in Council, appointing the Right Honorable Sir John A. Macdonald, Minister of the Interior, the Hon. S. L. Tilley, Minister of Finance, the Hon. C. Tupper, Minister of Public Works, and the Hon. G. Baby, Minister of Inland Revenue, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the Act 31 Victoria, Chapter 27, intitled: ‘An Act respecting the Internal Economy of the House of Commons; and for other purposes.’

“Government House,

“Ottawa, 18th February, 1879.”

REPORT.

Mr. POPE (Queen's P. E. I.) laid before the House,—Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1878.

House adjourned at

Fifteen minutes to

Six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 19th February, 1879.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

EAST ELGIN CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

JUDGE'S REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Hon. Vice-Chancellor Blake, one of the Judges selected for the trial of election petitions, pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, a certificate relating to the election for the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Elgin.

BANKRUPTCY BILL.

(*Mr. Colby.*)

FIRST READING.

Mr. COLBY introduced Bill (No. 2) Relating to Bankruptcy. He stated that the Bill contemplated the repeal of the