

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT—REVISED EDITION

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Speaker: HON. ALBERT SÉVIGNY.

Wednesday, January 12, 1916.

This being the day on which Parliament is convoked by proclamation of the Governor General for the despatch of business, and the members of the House being assembled:

The Clerk read to the House a letter from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that the Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber this day at 3 p.m. to open the session.

A message was delivered by Lieut.-Col. Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:

The Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate Chamber, when the Speaker of the Senate said:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have it in command to let you know that His Royal Highness the Governor General does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present Parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law; but to-morrow, at the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon, His Royal Highness will declare the causes of his calling this Parliament.

VACANCIES.

The Clerk of the House, standing on the lower step below the Speaker's chair, said: I have the honour to inform the House that, during the recess, the following notifications of vacancies in the representation have been received:

Of the Electoral District of Kings, N.S., by the resignation of Arthur De Witt Foster, Esq.

Of the Electoral District of Carleton, Ontario, by the resignation of William F. Garland, Esq.

Of the Electoral District of Hamilton East, by the death of the Hon. Samuel Barker.

Of the Electoral District of Lisgar, by the resignation of William H. Sharpe, Esq.

Of the Electoral District of Brandon, by the resignation of Sir James A. M. Aikins, Kt.

Of the Electoral District of Prince, P.E.I., by the death of James W. Richards, Esq.

Of the Electoral District of Hochelaga, by the acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown of the Hon. Louis Coderre.

Of the Electoral District of the East Riding of the County of Grey, by the Hon. Thomas S. Sproule having been summoned to the Senate.

Of the Electoral District of Restigouche, by the death of James Reid, Esq.

Of the Electoral District of Lincoln, by the death of Edward Arthur Lancaster, Esq.

NEW MEMBER.

The Clerk said: I have also the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery a certificate of the election and return of Hon. Esioff L. Patenaude for the Electoral District of Hochelaga.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Acting Prime Minister): Dr. Flint, we have just been informed of the vacancy that has occurred in the Speaker's office, and the reasons therefor. I am now, I believe, one of the two oldest sitting members of the House—not in point of age—I am not alluding to that—but in point of service. With the exception, I think, of my right hon. friend opposite (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), I am the oldest. I have had the pleasure of sitting and working in this House under the