

bates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable 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 access to His Excellency upon all seasonable 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 said : I have the honour to state that the House having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon me, and, in your names and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Mr. Laurier.)

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

MR. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, and His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows :—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The necessity of making provision for the public service has compelled me to summon you together at this somewhat inconvenient season.

It is impossible to lay before you, at this session, the public accounts for the past year ; or, indeed, any of the reports usually submitted to Parliament.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that you will be required to re-assemble

early in the ensuing year, it does not appear expedient to invite your attention to any measures beyond the passage of the supplies.

The operation of the tariff will be made the subject of careful inquiry during the recess, with a view to the preparation of such a measure as may, without doing injustice to any interest, materially lighten the burdens of the people.

Immediate steps will be taken to effect a settlement of the Manitoba school question, and I have every confidence that, when Parliament next assembles, this important controversy will have been adjusted satisfactorily.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Estimates for the current year will be laid before you forthwith.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

I hope that when you will have given the necessary attention to the consideration of the year's supplies, I may be able to relieve you from the duty of further attendance at this session of Parliament.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr Laurier). I beg to move, seconded by Sir Richard Cartwright :

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General, to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, be taken into consideration to-morrow, or on any other day that may suit the hon. gentleman opposite.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would just say, in reference to that, that I do not think any time will be lost by the adoption of Monday instead of to-morrow, as the hon. gentleman who is leading the Government is aware that a number of gentlemen who are likely to take part in the discussion of the Address will not, probably, be here till Monday. If that would be equally convenient, I would be glad that Monday should be adopted. While on my feet, I desire to ask the hon. leader of the Government to be good enough to obtain His Excellency's permission to lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence which took place in connection with the resignation of the late Government. It would be very desirable, I think, to have before the House that correspondence when the Address is considered, as it would enable us to deal with the question of the change of administration at the same time.

The PRIME MINISTER. With regard to the first demand of the right hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition, that is to say, that the Address should be taken into consideration on Monday, I certainly have no objection. I would not like to break the present harmony which has existed so far, and which I hope will continue to the end of the present