

Who being come, with their Speaker, the Honourable Edgar N. Rhodes, who said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons has elected me 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 King 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 favourable consideration.

His Honour 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 His 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.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

You have been summoned to the first session of a new Parliament in the midst of a world-wide struggle which vitally concerns the liberties, the institutions, and the destiny of our country, and of the whole world. Thus the responsibilities and duties imposed upon you are even graver and more far-reaching than in the ordinary course of public affairs. Bearing with you a new mandate from the people, and animated by the unflinching spirit which has inspired them during the long and anxious years of effort and sacrifice, I am confident that you will bring to the discharge of your public duties, an unflinching resolve to sustain the high cause in which our country has already borne so splendid a part.

After nearly four years of war the issue still remains undecided. The effort which yet lies before us demands our sternest resolve, but we shall not shrink from it if our hearts are as firm and our courage as undaunted as those of our countrymen who hold our battle line beyond the seas. The Canadian Expeditionary Force still sustains its unbroken record of distinguished achievement to which it has notably contributed since the close of the last session.

Notwithstanding a greater delay than was anticipated in the operation of the Military Service Act, the necessary reinforcements to keep our forces at full strength have been provided and this purpose will be maintained in the future.

In order to extend the principle of the present Civil Service Act to the Outside Service, and thus to provide that all appointments to the Public Service shall be