

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Hon. J. G. Blanchet is descended from one of the first families established in *La Nouvelle France*, and is a son of M. Louis Blanchet, of St. Pierre, Riviere du Sud, where he was born, 7th June, 1829. He was educated at the Quebec Seminary, and at St. Ann's College, and married in August, 1850, Emilie, daughter of M. G. D. Balzaret, of Milan, Italy. He is Lieutenant-Colonel of the 17th Battalion Volunteer Infantry, which he raised in 1863, and has since commanded. He was elected Honorary President of the *Cercle de Quebec* in 1871; President of the Levis and Kennebec Railway in 1872, and appointed a member of the Catholic section of the Council of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec, 1873. He commanded the 3rd Administrative Battalion on frontierservice during the St. Alban's raid, 1865; and was in command of the active militia force on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, Quebec District, during the Fenian raid in 1866 and again in 1870. He was Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Province of Quebec, from the meeting of the first Parliament after the Union in 1867, until the dissolution of the second Parliament, 1875. He was Mayor of the town of Levis for six years, and an unsuccessful candidate for Levis in the Canada Assembly at the general election of 1857. He sat for Levis in the Canada Assembly, from 1861 until the Union, when he was returned by acclamation to the House of Commons, where he continued to sit until 1874, when, in consequence of the operation of the Act respecting dual representation, he resigned his seat in that body in order to remain in the Quebec Assembly, to which he was first returned in 1867, and in which he continued (representing Levis) up to 1875, when he was defeated. He was returned to the House of Commons for Bellechasse 23rd November, 1875, to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of the sitting member to the Supreme Court of the Dominion, and again at the last general election for Levis.

The Marquis of Lorne has accepted the position of Commodore of the Nova Scotia yacht squadron, vacated by the Earl of Dufferin.

POPE LEO XIII. sent through Bishop Healey, of Portland, a splendid medal to the Chiefs of the tribe of Abenakis Indians, who made the pair of moccasins presented to the Pope during the Bishop's visit to Rome.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY,
No. 302.



THE HON. J. G. BLANCHET,
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA.

THE Emperor and Empress of Austria are preparing for their silver wedding; but as the Empire, like other continental countries, is suffering from severe depression, their Majesties have declared that all costly pomp, and all celebration involving expenditure, are to be avoided.

Of all the wreaths placed on King Victor Emmanuel's grave, the most beautiful was that of Florence, which was of artificial flowers, but so natural that they must be touched to be known to be artificial. The town of Turin also sent a magnificent wreath.

A WARRANT for a prosecution has been issued by the Prussian Government against a number of gentlemen of the Province of Hanover for having collected money for gifts to be presented to the Duke of Cumberland. A portion of the collected money has been seized.

ACCORDING to a letter to England one very curious result has followed the residence of the Princess Louise in Canada: Already all the vacant houses in Ottawa are occupied, not by Canadians, but Americans, who have come across the border to settle close to the Princess. Upwards of a hundred Yankee favourites have arrived for this purpose, and rents are rising daily. I hear that some of the American ladies have actually come from San Francisco, and brought all their jewels with them. They are very anxious to show the Princess how much they possess.

A MORE remarkable type of man than a Goorkha does not exist. In the first place, they are all hill men, and, therefore, invaluable in any frontier warfare. Their absurdly small stature is compensated for by their great daring, activity and courage. Their principal idea of happiness is bloodshed; but, at the same time, they only exhibit this temperament on service, and at all other times, when their passions are not roused, they are the most charming and good-natured set of people of any natives of India. They laugh and chaff and enjoy a joke like an Englishman, and, I believe, are not too particular about caste. Each man, besides the ordinary soldier's equipment of a rifle, carries a kind of sword, or rather dirk, called a "cookery." Their curved blades are always kept as sharp as a razor, and the astonishing rapidity with which they can clear a space for an encamping ground proves how ably they can use this, their natural and national weapon of defence, or rather attack. Their cast of feature is almost Chinese.

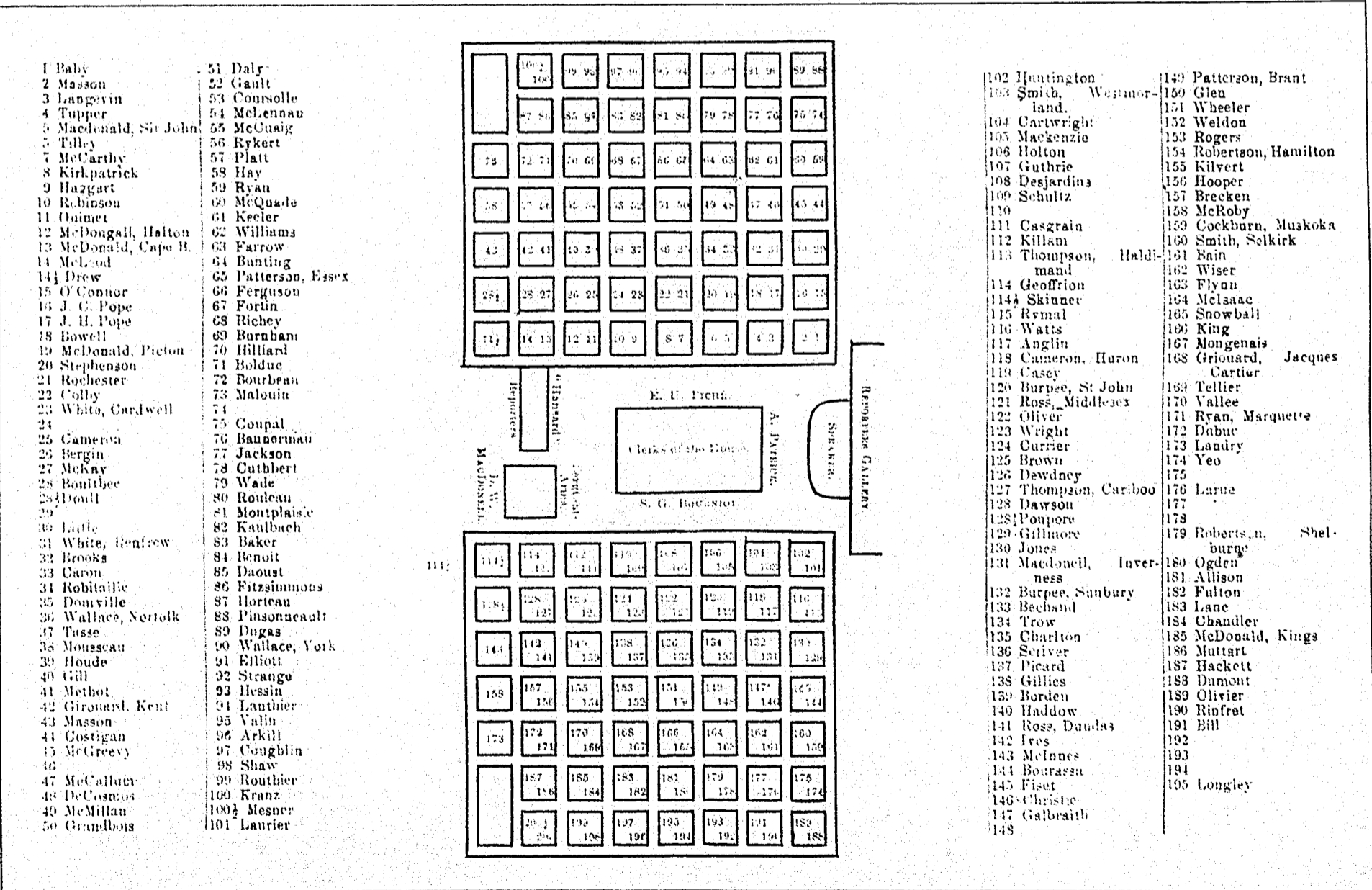


DIAGRAM OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. SEATS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE.