



HON. CHARLES MARCIL, M.P., THE NEW SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

of the United Kingdom. It may not be possible to do immediately all that should be done, and it will be urged by many that we have already made a beginning. But we must not delay too long deciding where our duty lies. The old Latin maxim that he pays twice who pays quickly was never truer than in the matter of imperial responsibilities. It is what we do now that will count.

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The new Dominion Parliament—the eleventh since Confederation—is fairly started, its first considerable act after the election of a Speaker being to recognise the justice of the grievance long urged by the civil service that the salaries of the service have not kept pace with the increased cost of living. The subject was a difficult one to deal with, but the justice of the claim was obvious. Salaries and wages

in practically every profession and every class of labour had risen more or less in sympathy with the increased cost of living before the turn of the civil servant came. It would have been unjust to the great body of officials to whom is entrusted the administration of the affairs of a prosperous and growing country had their claims been longer neglected.

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As to the new Speakers, Hon. J. K. Kerr of the Senate and Hon. Charles Marcil of the Commons, they are gentlemen of dignity and character, unlikely to allow the standard of debate or procedure in either house to be lowered. Mr. Marcil had had a long experience as Deputy-Speaker and his election was generally expected. As an orator in two tongues he has a brilliant reputation throughout Canada. The incident of election was the occasion of some reference by the Premier to the British practice of retaining a Speaker from Parliament to Parliament regardless of his former party predilections. There is much to be said in favour of such a system from the point of view of higher politics, and it works well in Great Britain, but it is perhaps asking almost too much of a younger and more democratic community like Canada that one party should leave so dignified and influential an office in the hands of its opponents. The British ministry newly coming into office finds an immense field of rich patronage at its disposition at home and abroad, all to be used more or less for its party friends. The Dominion Government has comparatively little in the way of well paid offices to bestow and the two parties are not likely soon to agree to take each other's Speakers.

