

should be the choice of the House on the present occasion. But, Sir, I knew before to-day that Conservative loyalty to British institutions shines and glows at election times, and when the elections are over it is put under a bushel to serve again when the occasion arises. If, however, British precedents are to be discarded, I would have suggested that with great propriety my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Wood), who was Deputy Speaker for the last Parliament, and who had discharged the duties of the office with admirable skill, as everyone will agree, would have been worthy of the honour of being Speaker of this House. I do not say this, Mr. BOURNOR, with any intention of impugning the qualifications of the hon. gentleman who is now suggested to the House as the future Speaker. I am disposed to say on behalf of the Opposition--of the Loyal Opposition of Her Majesty: loyal, Sir, in every sense of the word, loyal to the Crown, loyal to the people, loyal to this House: even loyal to the majority of this House, and ever ready to accept a good suggestion from the majority when on the few and rare occasions a good suggestion comes from them--I am disposed to agree with everything that has been said by my right hon. friend in reference to the hon. member for North Renfrew (Mr. White), the nominee for the office of Speaker. Everything the right hon. gentleman has said is fully endorsed by his colleagues in this House. From past experience of the hon. gentleman (Mr. White) I am sure that he is endowed with a thorough knowledge of the practice and business of this House, and we know from experience that he is also endowed with a sound judgment, a firm spirit, and I should say, a great independence of character. My hon. friend will pardon me, I hope, if I remind him that perfection is not of this world. He would not be of the human race if he did not allow me to tell with perfect candour that he cannot be altogether free from fault. I must, however, say that the only fault I have ever found with him was that I believe that he is endowed, nay saturated, with a certain political heresy which at one time was very prevalent in this country, but which under the lessons of a sad experience is now fast disappearing, and which will be long remembered by a long-suffering people as the National Policy. I am glad to say that I am sure that this heresy which would impair the usefulness of the hon. member on the floor of this House, if he had a seat in common with all of us, will not affect him at all while he is sitting in the Speaker's chair. I am sure that when he ascends to the chair he will leave aside all party proclivities and all political professions, and that in the high station to which he shall be called by the unanimous choice of the House he will stand upright and impartial, holding the scales evenly between contending parties without fear of any one, with favour to none, and with fair play to all.

The motion being put to the House,

Mr. BOURNOR declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *namine contradicente*; and PETER WHITE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of North Renfrew, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. WHITE was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin.

Mr. LAURIER.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT. I have to tender my grateful acknowledgment to this House for the high honour it has conferred upon me in electing me to the position of Speaker. It will always be my earnest hope to deserve the confidence that has been reposed in me, and I shall endeavour to discharge the duties of the high position to which you have elected me, with firmness and impartiality. I am fully sensible of my unfitness for the position, but I shall rely upon the co-operation of the hon. gentlemen upon both sides of the House to assist me in maintaining our Rules and Orders, in vindicating our rights and privileges, and in preserving the freedom and dignity of debate according to established usages.

The Serjeant-at-Arms then placed the Mace on the Table of the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to: and House adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 30th April, 1891.

The SPEAKER Elect having taken the Chair,

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

MR. SPEAKER.—

His Excellency the GOVERNOR GENERAL desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

Then the HONOURABLE PETER WHITE, SPEAKER ELECT, said:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons have elected me as 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 QUEEN 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.

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 reasonable 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. I have the honour to state that the House having attended on His Excellency