

House of Commons

of the house. I believe that his qualifications—those which he acquired when he qualified for the practice of law in the province of Quebec, and has demonstrated during the years in which he has been engaged in that profession, as well as those he has displayed since entering the house—fit him admirably to replace our former colleague, who won the affection of us all.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. ARTHUR BEAUCHESNE AS HONORARY OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the 20th of September, 1917, Sir Robert Borden, then prime minister, rose and from his place made the following statement:

An intimation has been already conveyed to the house that the Clerk of the House purposes retiring from the duties of his office, which he has discharged for some fifteen years. Previous to his acceptance of the office which he now holds, Dr. Flint had a distinguished career in parliament and in the public life of the country, and since he undertook the responsibilities of the important office of Clerk of the House, all of the members who have come in contact with him have appreciated the ability, zeal, and industry which he has uniformly displayed in the discharge of his duties.

I desire to express my own personal recognition of his uniform courtesy and his unfailing attention to all matters which I have had to bring to his notice in the ten years which I served as leader of the opposition, and in the six years which I have had imposed upon me the responsibilities of First Minister.

I feel perfectly confident that my right hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, will join with me in proposing a resolution which I am sure will meet with universal acceptance by all the members of this house. It is my privilege to move, seconded by Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

"That in view of the long and faithful services of Doctor Thomas B. Flint, Clerk of the House of Commons, he be continued after his retirement an honorary officer of this house, and that he be allowed the entrée of the House of Commons and a seat at the table on occasions of ceremony."

I think it is fortunate that, as the years go by, we can find occasion to repeat such gesture to men who have faithfully and long served the House of Commons at the table. Hon. members have noted that, after many years of efficient, courteous and devoted service to the members of this house, Dr. Arthur Beauchesne has reached the age of retirement, and has retired.

I have had the opportunity of discussing with the leader of the opposition, and the leaders of the other groups, the precedent established in this house over thirty years ago. It is my privilege to move at this time, seconded by the leader of the opposition:

That in view of the long and faithful services of Dr. Arthur Beauchesne, the recently retired Clerk of the House of Commons, he be appointed an hon-

orary officer of the house, and that he be allowed the entrée of the House of Commons and a seat at the table on occasions of ceremony.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): In seconding this motion, Mr. Speaker, I feel sure that all hon. members will be happy to have the privilege of giving this evidence of their appreciation of the great contribution Dr. Beauchesne has made to the clarification of procedure in the House of Commons. To settle most arguments on procedure it is necessary only to mention a reference in *Beauchesne*. In a great many ways we have adopted the practices of Westminster, but here in this House of Commons we have also developed practices of our own; and to a very considerable extent those practices have taken form and have been clarified and interpreted under the guidance of this great student, who will long be remembered as the man whose views were regarded as so decisive in most cases in which they were cited. Along with that of Dr. Bourinot, I feel that the name of Dr. Beauchesne will be remembered as among those who have done much to design the general practice and procedure that has grown up in this house.

While we are paying this extremely well deserved tribute to Dr. Beauchesne, may I add that I am sure it will be a very real source of satisfaction to the new clerk of the house, who sits in his place, to know that from time to time he will have the benefit of the guidance and experience of Dr. Beauchesne, which I am sure will be of value to him in that way as it has been to this house for so many years.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that the governor in council has appointed Léon J. Raymond, Esquire, O.B.E., as Clerk of the House of Commons, and Edward Russell Hopkins, Esquire, as Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons.

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1949-50

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1950, was presented by Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1949-50

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting supplementary estimates for the financial year ending