

# THE DEBATES

## OF THE

### HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

IN THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA,  
APPOINTED TO MEET FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS **13** FEBRUARY,  
**1879**, IN THE FORTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

**T**HE THIRD PARLIAMENT of the Dominion, which had been prorogued from the 10th day of May, 1878, and thence from time to time, was dissolved by Proclamation on the 17th day of August, 1878; and, writs having been issued and returned, a new Parliament was summoned to meet for the Despatch of Business, on Thursday, the 13th day of February, 1879, and did accordingly meet on that day.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 13th Feb., 1879.*

On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the first Session of the fourth Parliament, for the despatch of business,—Alfred Patrick, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Commons, Donald William Macdonell, Gustavus William Wicksteed, Henry Hartney, John George Bourinot and Jean Philippe Leprohon, Esquires, Commissioners appointed by *Deiimus Potestatem* for administering the oath to members of the House of Commons, all attending according to their duty;—Richard Pope, Esquire, Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, delivered to the said Alfred Patrick a book containing a list of the names of the Members returned to serve in this Parliament.

The aforesaid Commissioners did administer the oath to the Members who were present; which being done, and the Members having subscribed the roll

containing the oath, they repaired to their seats.

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

*“Gentlemen,*

*“The Honourable William Johnstone Ritchie, Deputy Governor, desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.”*

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate, when the Speaker of the Senate said:

*“Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate, and*

*“Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

*“The Honourable William Johnstone Ritchie, Deputy Governor, does not see fit to declare the causes of summoning the present Parliament until a Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but to-morrow, at three o’clock in the afternoon, the causes of summoning this Parliament will be declared.”*

And the House being returned;