

3 o'clock, p.m.

The House having resumed;

PRAYERS.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following letter which had been received by the Clerk of the House of Commons:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

27th April, 1940.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Administrator will arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday the 16th May next, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the First Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. PEREIRA,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

ARTHUR BEAUCHESNE, Esq., C.M.G.,
Clerk of the House of Commons,
Ottawa.

A Message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

MR. SPEAKER,

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

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber, and then Mr. Speaker spoke to the following effect:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons have elected me 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 King 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 seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.