

## Preface

From the early years of Confederation to 1875, when the House of Commons began to report its debates officially, speeches delivered in the House were reported in major newspapers of the day, notably the *Ottawa Times* and the *Toronto Globe*. Parliamentary librarians clipped the reports and preserved them in scrapbooks; these became known as the “Scrapbook Debates”, which have provided most of the source material in producing the present volume.

As Parliamentary Librarian, I take great pride in the publication of this sixth volume in our series of reconstituted debates of the House of Commons. Reconstruction of the parliamentary record from 1867 to 1874 was initiated in the 1960s under Eric Spicer, then Parliamentary Librarian. In his Preface of the first volume, he described the reconstituted debates as “very valuable in preserving a continuous record of the political history of the Dominion”. Researchers, academics, students, and the Canadian public are certain to find the content of this volume fascinating for its many “firsts” in Canadian political history and for the passion and eloquence of the many players.

I am grateful to the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, for his recognition of the ongoing value of this work. Thanks are due to Dr. David Farr, one of three eminent Canadian historians who over the years have painstakingly reconstructed this material from primary sources. Thanks also go to Lynn Brodie, Director General, Information and Document Resource Service, to our dedicated Library staff, and to our parliamentary partners for their support and invaluable contribution to the project.

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Ottawa, 2013