

said as to the respective merits of these two practices; there is no occasion, however, to enter upon such a discussion to-day. The hon. gentleman who was our Speaker in the last parliament, Sir James Edgar, unfortunately did not complete his term, having been removed by death. The hon. gentleman who succeeded him, Mr. Bain, did not seek re-election. Therefore we have not with us to-day the Speaker of the late parliament; but in that parliament the office of Deputy Speaker was occupied by the hon. gentleman whom I have just named, Mr. Brodeur; and I venture to assert that he performed the duties of that office with great acceptance to all, displaying both fairness of mind and an accurate knowledge of parliamentary practice; and in the high position to which I venture to hope he will now be called by the unanimous assent of the House, I am sure he will display the same qualities in a still higher degree, and will be a true representative Speaker, holding even the scales of justice between all parties, and maintaining the principles and dignities of that great office. I therefore beg to move, seconded by Sir Richard Cartwright, that Louis Philippe Brodeur, member representing the electoral district of Rouville, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Sir John Bourinot, speaking for the moment for His Majesty's loyal opposition in this House, I may say that we do not intend to question in any way the selection of the hon. gentleman whose name has been mentioned for the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada; and I merely rise to add that we fervently hope on this side of the House that the hon. gentleman, an old colleague of many of us on both sides of the House, will be so able to observe the great traditions of that high office, both in this House and in the House of Commons of the mother country, that he may confidently rely upon the equal support of the gentlemen who sit either to the right or the left of the Chair.

The motion being put to the House,

The Clerk of the House (Sir John Bourinot) declared the motion carried in the affirmative *nemine contradicente*; and Louis Philippe Brodeur, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Rouville, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Brodeur was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright.

Mr. SPEAKER ELECT. I beg to tender to this House my most sincere thanks for the great honour they have been pleased to confer upon me, by electing me to be their Speaker. It will always be my earnest de-

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

sire to deserve the confidence reposed in me and to discharge my duties with the greatest impartiality. I am somewhat diffident as to my ability to meet the requirements of this important function; but I do venture to rely upon the indulgence of the House, and I am sure that members, on both sides, will always assist me in preserving the freedom and dignity of debate, and in vindicating our rights and privileges according to our rules and established usages.

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

On motion of the Prime Minister the House adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, February 7, 1901.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esq., 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 Hon. Louis Philippe Brodeur Speaker elect, said:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons has elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned 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.

The Hon. 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 His Majesty's person and government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance 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