

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Clerk also announced that he had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificates of the election and return of the following Members, viz. :—

Of the Hon. TIMOTHY WARREN ANGLIN, for the Electoral District of Gloucester; of JOSEPH MERRILL CURRIER, Esq., for the Electoral District of the City of Ottawa; of JAMES NORRIS, Esq., for the Electoral District of the County of Lincoln; of ZEPHIRIN DÉSIRÉ *alias* OLIVIER DÉSIRÉ BOURBEAU, Esq., for the Electoral District of Drummond and Arthabaska; of JACQUES MALOUIN, Esq., for the Electoral District of Quebec Centre; of the Hon. WILFRID LAURIER, for the Electoral District of Quebec East; of FRANÇOIS XAVIER OVIDE MÉTHOT, Esq., for the Electoral District of Nicolet; of GEORGE HADDOW, Esq., for the Electoral District of Restigouche; of JOHN C. WADE, Esq., for the Electoral District of Digby; and of the Hon. ALFRED G. JONES, for the Electoral District of Halifax.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following Members having previously taken the oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took their seats in the House, viz. :—

Hon. TIMOTHY WARREN ANGLIN, Member for the Electoral District of Gloucester; ZEPHIRIN DÉSIRÉ *alias* OLIVIER DÉSIRÉ BOURBEAU, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Drummond and Arthabaska; JOSEPH MERRILL CURRIER, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the City of Ottawa; GEORGE HADDOW, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Restigouche; Hon. ALFRED G. JONES, Member for the Electoral District of Halifax; Hon. WILFRID LAURIER, Member for the Electoral District of Quebec East; JACQUES MALOUIN, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Quebec Centre; FRANÇOIS XAVIER OVIDE MÉTHOT, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Nicolet; JAMES NORRIS, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of the County of Lincoln; and JOHN C. WADE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Digby.

Hon. PETER MITCHELL having presented the duplicate of the indenture of his election for the Electoral District of Northumberland, N.B., to the Clerk of the House, and having taken the oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took his seat in the House.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

MR. MACKENZIE: Mr. Patrick, I beg to move, Sir, seconded by Mr. A. J. Smith,

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

“That the Honourable Timothy Warren Anglin do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.”

I need only say, in making that motion, that I believe I am expressing the opinions of the entire House when I say that that hon. gentleman gave the most entire satisfaction when he occupied the chair of this House, and that I think I am consulting the general interests in making the motion I now place in your hands.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I regret very much that the hon. gentleman opposite has made this motion. I regret it on public grounds. I regret that, under the circumstances which we all know as members of this House—except, perhaps, the new members—this motion was made, especially by the head of the Government and the head of this House. The Speaker, Mr. Clerk, is chosen to sit judicially between the parties. He is to free himself from all political connection, and therefore the rule in England—the wise rule and practice in England—has been, although unfortunately we have not introduced it into this country, and we now see more than ever the disadvantage of not following English precedent, that the Speaker is not to be nominated by a member of the Government. This practice has not been introduced here, where the rule has always been that the Speaker has been proposed by the Government and considered as a Government candidate. We now see, in this case, the wisdom of the English rule and the impolicy of our having departed from it. I think it would have been well if the Government under the circumstances—having felt it their duty to support the motion, if not themselves to call for the motion, by which a vacancy took place in the county of Gloucester, had not made the present proposition—but had left the House to deal with it. I shall call the attention of this assembly, for it is scarcely yet to be called a House, to a Parliamentary rule, or a question of constitutional practice as to whether the members now sitting here have the power to elect Mr. Anglin. I shall try to speak in a judicial spirit, because it is not of so much importance that any individual member should be