

full well my unfitness for this high office but I trust that with the loyal co-operation of both sides in this House I shall be able to maintain with firmness, tempered by impartiality, the rules which unfortunately in the past I myself have honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

From this moment on I cease to be a party man; I become the servant of the House and in a broader sense the servant of the country, of which you are the direct, and I should add, the graceful expression.

I have sat, as has been stated, for twenty-five years in the House of Commons. I hope to live up to its traditions and to its memories. It shall be my endeavour in my administration of the rules of the House and in my interpretation of the constitutional usages to maintain and preserve those traditions, customs and privileges, and above all, that freedom of speech and that dignity and decorum in debate, which have come down to us through precedent and precedent from the Mother of Parliaments, the British House of Commons.

Madame, mes chers collègues, je vous remercie du plus profond de mon cœur du témoignage de confiance que vous venez de me donner si unanimement. Je sais que je n'ai pas la compétence voulue pour faire dignement honneur à la position, mais vous pouvez compter sur mon impartialité et sur ma fermeté afin que les règlements de la Chambre, règlements qui nous sont venus de très loin puisqu'ils datent de la monarchie anglo-normande dont nous sommes les héritiers au Canada, soient respectés. C'est ainsi que nous donnerons à nos délibérations la dignité voulue. J'espère qu'avec votre concours je serai à la hauteur de la situation et qu'ensemble nous maintiendrons les traditions, les us et coutumes, les privilèges, la liberté de parole qui nous viennent du plus grand, j'oserais dire du modèle des parlements modernes, le parlement britannique. Encore une fois, mes chers collègues, merci du plus profond de mon cœur.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Sergeant-at-Arms, with my approval, has appointed Louis Charles Panet, Esquire, to be his deputy during the present session of Parliament.

ADJOURNMENT — BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King for the adjournment of the House:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): I think that the House will expect me to make to them at as early a date as possible a report of the proceedings, or at all events of the part taken by myself and by my colleagues, as representing Canada, at the recent Conference in Great Britain. I have been favoured with a complete report of the Conference proceedings myself, but it comes to me marked "Secret," and of course necessarily is in some degree of that character. For the purpose of making the representation I would like, it will be essential that I review my own position, and to make that understandable, the position taken by at least some of the other representatives there on various matters of great consequence. I should not feel free to do so, unless I had a definite word and liberty given as to what use I might make of the report that is to hand. I therefore would ask my right hon. friend the Prime Minister to communicate with the Prime Minister of Great Britain and secure as far as possible liberty to me to quote from the Report of the Conference and to secure as well a statement of such limitations and reservations as he feels in the general interest should be imposed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall be very pleased indeed to give consideration to the matter to which my right hon. friend has referred.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would ask as well that the Government lay on the Table, at the Opening of Parliament, if possible, a copy of an Order in Council, which has been referred to in the press—I do not know whether one was passed—in reference to the transfer of certain fishery rights from the Dominion to the province of Quebec.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 3.55 p.m. Wednesday.

Thursday, March 9, 1922.

The House met at Three o'clock.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. SPEAKER read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary announcing that His Excellency would proceed to the Senate Chamber at 3 p.m. on this day for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion Parliament.