

House of Commons Debates

FOURTH SESSION—SIXTH PARLIAMENT—53 VIC.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 16th January, 1890.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at fifteen minutes before Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

A Message was delivered by René Edouard Kimber, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod :

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honorable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned,

VACANCIES.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that during the recess he had received communications from several members notifying him that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation :—

Of the Hon. JOHN HENRY POPE, Member for the Electoral District of Compton, by decease.

Of JEAN BAPTISTE LABELLE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Richelieu, by decease.

Of EDGAR CROWE BAKER, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Victoria, B.C., by resignation.

Of CHARLES CARROLL COLBY, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Stanstead, by acceptance of an office of emolument under the Crown.

He also informed the House that he had issued his several warrants to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out Writs of Election for the said Electoral Districts respectively.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. SPEAKER further informed the House that during the recess the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificates of the election and return of the following members :—

Of RUFUS HENRY POPE, Esq., for the Electoral District of Compton.

Of JOSEPH AIMÉ MASSUE, Esq., for the Electoral District of Richelieu.

Of THOMAS EARLE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Victoria, B.C.

Of the Hon. CHARLES CARROLL COLBY, Member for the Electoral District of Stanstead.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

Hon. CHARLES CARROLL COLBY, Member for the Electoral District of Stanstead, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin.

THOMAS EARLE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Victoria, B.C., introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Prior.

R. H. POPE, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Compton, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and the Hon. C. C. Colby.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER laid on the Table a copy of the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament in the Senate Chamber this day, which is as follows :—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

In calling you together again for the consideration of Public Affairs, I may fairly congratulate you on a continuance of the progress and prosperity of the country.

During the recess I visited Manitoba and the North-West Territories and British Columbia, and everywhere I found myself received with the loyalty and good-will which I have learned to be characteristic of Canada. A comparison of my own observations with those of my predecessors shows clearly the great progress which has marked this part of the Dominion, in the settlement of the country and in the development of its great agricultural capabilities, of its mineral wealth and of its other natural resources.

In consequence of the repeated seizures by cruisers of the United States Navy of Canadian Vessels, while employed in the capture of seals in that part of the Northern Pacific Ocean, known as Behring Sea, my Government has strongly represented to Her Majesty's Ministers, the necessity of protecting our shipping, while engaged in their lawful calling, as well as of guarding against the assumption by any nation of exclusive proprietary rights in those waters. I feel confident that those representations have had due weight, and I hope to be enabled during the present Session to assure you that all differences on this question are in the course of satisfactory adjustment.

Having observed the close attention which has recently been given by the Imperial Authorities and on the Continent of Europe to the improvement in the methods of catching, curing and packing fish, I deemed it expedient to cause a Commission to be sent to Scotland and Holland to examine and report upon this subject during the fishing season. The report of the delegates will be laid before you ; it will, I am sure, give our Fishermen most valuable information and instruction as to the best means of improving and developing this important industry.

My Ministers have carefully considered the difficulties which surround the administration of the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers, and a measure will be submitted to you for removing uncer-