

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Thursday, March 1, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 8 P. M.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE FRENCH CANADIAN POPULATION.

EXPLANATION.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—Before the notices of motion are called, I desire to make an explanation of an error into which I fell in the debate on the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, and which error has formed the subject of a newspaper article, a copy of which has been sent to me. In that article the writer expresses the belief that I will take the earliest opportunity of correcting the error into which I fell, which I very readily do. In speaking of the claims which our French Canadian fellow subjects have to the position of the Speaker in this House, I stated that they stood perhaps as one to five. I do not think I did so with any intention of being understood as speaking accurately, and I think I said one to four or one to five—in that kind of way—but I have been taken to have said one to five, which is not correct. The true statement of the population I have had made out, and it is as follows:—The total population of the whole Dominion in 1881, was 4,384,810, and of that population in the four old Provinces the French Canadians numbered 1,582,000, or, in Quebec itself, 929,817; so that if I stated the French Canadian population is a little more than one in five, I was wrong—the population is a little more than one in four. I desire, of course, to make the correction, and the article which I have in my hand, which is from the “Minerve,” justly says it is sure I will hasten to do so if I am in error, and I find that I was if I said so; but my impression is I stated it in a general way, without speaking accurately or from the book.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.

AN EXPLANATION.

The SPEAKER submitted a list of the

Senators who had taken and subscribed the declaration of qualification for the present Session.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—In the list of members who have subscribed to the declaration of qualification, which the Speaker has just laid on the table, appears the name of our colleague, Mr. Price, who has not been able to appear this Session, and consequently has not been able to subscribe the declaration of qualification in the way the rules of the House direct, which is before the Clerk. Mr. Price has transmitted a declaration to the Clerk of the Senate, who makes a special report with reference to it;—that in addition to the other gentlemen who have subscribed, he has received a certificate from Mr. Price, who is suffering from paralysis, and a copy of the declaration signed by himself. I am sure hon. gentlemen will consider that declaration sufficient. (Hear! hear!)

The Senate adjourned at 8.10 p. m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Friday, March 2, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock p. m.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

MOTION.

HON. MR. POWER moved:

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before this House, all Memorials, Correspondence and Communications of any kind in the possession of any Department or Officers of the Government, relating to the Mail Service between Canada and the United Kingdom, or to the rates of freight charged by the Proprietors of the line of Steamships by which such Mail Service is performed.”

He said—This resolution of which I had given notice, is intended simply to enable the Government to lay upon the table of the House some correspondence