

THE DEBATES

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

IN THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA,
APPOINTED TO MEET FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS 7 FEBRUARY,
1878, IN THE FORTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 7th Feb., 1878.

The Parliament which had been prorogued successively from the twenty-eighth day of April, 1877, and thence from time to time to the seventh day of February, 1878, met this day for the despatch of business.

The Members of the House being assembled,

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

GENTLEMEN,

Sir William Buell Richards, Knight, Deputy Governor, desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate, when the Speaker of the Senate said:—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—*

Sir William Buell Richards, Knight, Deputy Governor, does not see fit to declare the causes of summoning the present Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but to-morrow at three o'clock in the afternoon, the causes of calling this Parliament will be declared.

VACANCIES.

And the Members being returned,
The Clerk of the House, standing on the lower step below the Speaker's Chair, said:—

I

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery copies of warrants showing vacancies which have occurred in the representation, namely:

Of the Hon. TIMOTHY WARREN ANGLIN, Speaker of the House and Member for the Electoral District of Gloucester, by resignation; of WILFRID LAURIER, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Drummond and Arthabaska, by acceptance of the office of Minister of Inland Revenue; of the Hon. JOSEPH EDOUARD CACHON, Member for the Electoral District of Quebec Centre, by acceptance of the office of Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Manitoba; of the Hon. ISIDORE THIBAudeau, Member for the Electoral District of Quebec East, by resignation.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Patrick, I conceive that you cannot, as Clerk of the House, undertake to perform the duty of Speaker, and to make these announcements. I object to your doing so. Your only duty is, if any member speaks, to point to him and mention his name.

The Clerk proceeded to announce the vacancies:

Of JOSEPH GAUDET, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Nicolet, by resignation; of GEORGE MOFFATT, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Restigouche, by resignation; of the Hon. WILLIAM B. VAIL, Member for the Electoral District of Digby, by resignation; of ALFRED G. JONES, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of Halifax, by resignation; of the Hon. PETER MITCHELL, Member for the Electoral District of Northumberland, N.B., by resignation; and of JAMES CUNNINGHAM, Esq., Member for the Electoral District of New Westminster, by resignation.