

that in the Chair he will be the impartial servant of the House.

But, if I am surprised that my hon. friend the leader of the government has selected my hon. friend from East Grey to be the Speaker of this House, still more surprised am I, still more surprised must everybody be, that the selection has received the endorsement of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk) and my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier), Nationalist representatives in the government. If my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) were to read as assiduously as I read the Nationalist press he would know what a bad man he is, he would know that according to the Nationalist press, and according to Nationalist orators also, he is so bad that it is a crime for a member of the Liberal party, or any party, especially the Nationalist party to vote with him on any division. He would have learned that in 1905 there was a conspiracy between him and me, when autonomy was being granted to Alberta and Saskatchewan, to deprive the Catholic population of their schools, and the French settlers of their language. All this, and much more was written and spoken during the last campaign, and yet on this day, this very day, the first of the session, my hon. friend is the chosen candidate for the presidency of this House of the Nationalist party. In this they give us the measure of what we are to believe of their denunciations, and they show how easily they can swallow their principles if what they speak and write can be dignified with the name of principles.

Mr. BORDEN. Dr. Flint, my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has not received the proposals of the government with the best possible humour, but I suppose that under the circumstances we should not have expected that he would have been in much better humour than he has shown himself to-day. After all he has indulged in a more or less rambling speech with regard to the proposal made, and in the end he has admitted that the gentleman proposed by the government is a gentleman entirely worthy of the very high honour which it is proposed to confer upon him. I would like to say to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that he has already begun to give evidence of the fact that he is ready to preach in opposition that which he did not practise in power. His speech was full of surprises, surprises that certain dissensions which he had hoped to see in the ranks of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House had not made themselves manifest. His appeal in that regard was unworthy of the right hon. gentleman, but the exhibition which he has given to-day is no new incident in his poli-

tical record. I would like to tell him that so far as hon. gentlemen on this side of the House are concerned, they are, without exception, so far as I am aware, willing to support the nomination of the gentleman whom I have named, and if the right hon. gentleman desires to test that, the opportunity is open to him now. I can only add that nominations of this kind have in the past been received in a somewhat different spirit from that which the right hon. gentleman has exhibited to-day; but I would like to say finally that under all the circumstances every allowance should be made to the right hon. gentleman for the ill temper which he has shown on this occasion.

The motion being put to the House,

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, nemine contradicente, and Thomas Simpson Sproule, Esquire, member for the electoral district of East Grey, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Sproule was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by Hon. R. L. Borden and Hon. George E. Foster.

Hon. THOMAS S. SPROULE (Speaker-elect). I beg to tender to this House my sincere and hearty thanks for the high honour it has conferred upon me by electing me as its Speaker. It will be my pleasure, as well as my duty, to endeavour to deserve that high honour by dealing with all questions which come before me in my official character with firmness and with impartiality. I am fully sensible of my unfitness for the position, but I rely confidently upon the co-operation of hon. members on both sides of this House to assist me in maintaining our rights and privileges and in preserving the freedom and dignity of debate, according to ancient usage.

The sergeant-at-arms then placed the Mace on the Table of the House.

On motion of Mr. Borden, House adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, November 16, 1911.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a communication from the secretary of His Royal Highness the Governor General as follows: