

He stands firmly behind his decisions. Best of all he is equally competent in the rules and practice of the Speaker in our two languages—and if I might add even more so in the English practice and all former rulings. Those are all good qualities. I have watched the developments in the office of Speaker in the Old Land, and I think the practice there is a good one. Once you have a good Speaker, keep him there, because good Speakers are hard to get. I agree with my hon. friend and leader (Mr. Meighen) that a better example would have been set if the rule had been put in practice in the case of a Speaker elected by members on the opposite side of the House. Certainly I know of nobody who possesses the qualifications for the position of Speaker to the extent that the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) does. I shall be glad to see him elected unanimously, as I know he will be by this House, and while this is fighting ground, we will all do our best to respect him, his office, and the rights and dignities of this House.

Finally, in these days there has arisen a new spirit called the spirit of Locarno. I do not know quite what it is, but already it has been effective in Ireland and I hope it will find its way into other countries where British parliamentary institutions prevail. In the last election we had just one little indication of it. It is this and it means a great deal. I do not know to whom the credit should be given, but we have had the wisdom in this House to ask the returning officers in this country to respect their office as a judicial office and have enacted that they shall hold that office so long as they properly perform their duties. I should like our returning officers to have a good deal of the spirit of the presiding officer of this House and to apply the principle throughout the country so that the same men, whether they be returning officers or deputy returning officers or clerks, may remain in office as long as they perform their duties properly.

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, nemine contradicente, and Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, member for the electoral division of Gaspé, duly elected to the chair of the House.

Honourable Mr. Lemieux was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by Hon. Ernest Lapointe and Hon. J. A. Robb.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: Madame, fellow members of the House of Commons, I beg to return my humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be your Speaker. After thirty years of

public service in the House of Commons it is particularly gratifying to me that I should deserve your confidence. In the discharge of my duties it will be my pride to maintain and preserve the traditions, privileges, usages and customs which, from time immemorial, have come to us from the Mother of Parliaments. I sincerely thank both sides of the House for their unanimity in selecting me as their chief officer. Let me assure the House that I shall always be inspired by that inscription that I read every day from my window on the monument of that great Scotch Canadian, Alexander Mackenzie: "Duty was his law; conscience his ruler."

Madame, mes chers collègues,—J'apprécie plus que je ne saurais le dire le grand honneur que vous me faites en m'élisant à la Présidence. Après trente années de service continu à la Chambre des Communes, il m'est particulièrement agréable de savoir que j'ai mérité votre confiance. Dans l'exercice de mes fonctions, j'aurai toujours à cœur de maintenir et de préserver les traditions, les privilèges, les us et coutumes qui de temps immémorial nous ont été transmis par l'*Alma Mater* des Parlements.

Je remercie les députés des deux côtés de la Chambre de leur unanimité en me choisissant comme leur président. Puissè-je m'inspirer toujours de cette inscription que je lis de ma fenêtre, sur le socle du monument de l'honorable Alexander Mackenzie, ancien premier ministre: "Le devoir était sa loi; la conscience son guide".

Encore une fois merci, mes chers collègues.

#### DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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

On motion of Mr. Lapointe the House adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

**Friday, January 8, 1926.**

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.