

## CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

### OFFICIAL REPORT

Monday, March 18, 1918.

#### MEMBERS SWORN IN.

To-day being the first day of the meeting of the first session of the Thirteenth Parliament for the despatch of business, William Barton Northrup, Esq., M.A., K.C., Clerk of the House of Commons, Francis H. Gisborne, Esq., I.S.O., K.C., Parliamentary Counsel, Arthur Beauchesne, Esq., B.A., K.C., Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons, Commissioners appointed by *Dedimus Potestatem* for administering the Oath to members of the House of Commons, all attending according to their duty, James G. Foley, Esq., Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, delivered to the said William Barton Northrup a roll containing a list of the names of such members as had been returned to serve in this Parliament.

The aforesaid commissioners did administer the oath to the members who were present, which being done, and the members having subscribed to the roll containing the oath, they repaired to their seats. The Clerk of the House said: I have the honour to communicate the following letter which I have received from His Excellency the Governor General:

Ottawa, 14th, March, 1918.

Sir:—I have the honour to inform you that the Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Monday the 18th day of March at 11 o'clock.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. HENDERSON, Lieut.-Col.  
Governor General's Secretary.

The Clerk of the House of Commons,  
Ottawa.

A message was delivered by Colonel Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, who was received at the door of the Commons Chamber by Louis Charles Panet, Esq., Acting Serjeant-at-Arms:

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

His Honour, the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

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

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have it in command to let you know that His Excellency the Governor General does not see fit to declare the cause of his summoning the present parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law; but, to-day, at the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon, His Excellency will declare the causes of calling this parliament.

And the House being returned.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

HON. EDGAR N. RHODES, ELECTED  
SPEAKER.

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Northrup, we have just been reminded that it is the first duty of a newly assembled House of Commons to elect a Speaker. The presidency of this House is a position of great honour and dignity, and the proper fulfilment of its duties demands the highest qualities of intellect and temperament. It is necessary that the Speaker should preside with dignity, with fairness and with courtesy. Moreover, he must be perfectly impartial, and more than reasonably patient. The gentleman whom I am about to propose is still a young man, although he has had a long experience in public life. More than that, he has already fulfilled the duties of Speaker of the House of Commons; and I do not think it is too much to say that in the discharge of those duties he has brought to bear qualities of intellect and temperament which eminently fit him for the position, and which render him conspicuous among those who, during the past, have occupied that very important office. It is therefore, with great pleasure that I move, seconded by Mr. Carvell: