

# Parliament of Ontario

## SECOND PARLIAMENT--FIRST SESSION.

THURSDAY, Dec. 21.

The CLERK took the chair at three o'clock.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE read the following statement:—

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor commands me to acquaint you that the Hon. Richard William Scott, member for the city of Ottawa, and also Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, has been appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Province, and that his seat in the Assembly having thereby become vacant, the appointment of another Speaker is rendered necessary. It is therefore His Excellency's pleasure that you do forthwith choose a fit and proper person to be your Speaker, and that you do present him whom you have so chosen to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in this House, to-morrow at one o'clock, for His Excellency's approbation.

### ELECTION OF A NEW SPEAKER.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said—I proceed to perform the duty that has fallen on me—that of ordering a person to the chair, rendered vacant by the acceptance of Mr. Scott of an office of trust and emolument under the Crown. I do not propose, in the present unorganized condition of the House, that we should on this occasion discuss the question of the organization of the Administration. I will make but a simple statement on this subject, namely:—that the organization of the Administration has been completed, and that Mr. Mackenzie—whom, at the earliest moment I had requested to undertake the arduous functions of the Treasurership, and whom I could not induce to do so, has yielded to my solicitations, and is now Treasurer. Mr. Gow has accepted the office of Provincial Secretary. In reference to explanations asked by me on a former occasion, I will give them when the House is organized to-morrow. The explanations will be full, perhaps fuller than usual, and I believe they will be satisfactory to my friends and the country. I now beg to move that James George Currie, member for Welland take the chair of this House as Speaker. He has had considerable legislative experience in the old Province of Canada, and I have no doubt he will maintain his own dignity and that of this House. The short experience we have had of him in the conduct of that portion of the business that has fallen to his share in this House proves that he will be an acceptable person for the position to which I venture to hope he will be elected.

Mr. PARDEE seconded the nomination.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he did not rise to object to the member for Welland. He had the honour, a few days ago, to nominate to the chair a gentleman who held a high position in the Conservative party. He hailed the proposed change with unmingled satisfaction, because of the conduct of the late Speaker—conduct which he did not think Mr. Currie would be guilty of, namely, lobbying against the very party that had elected him. He would not at present say anything respecting the new appointment.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON re-echoed the statements of the member for Cornwall. He hoped the new Speaker would not endeavour to interfere in the political organizations of the House. He believed that Mr. Currie would exercise impartial conduct in the chair.

Mr. PARDEE regretted that the member for Cornwall should have thought it necessary to cast reflections upon a gentleman who could not be present to defend himself—a gentleman who stood high in the country, and who if on the floor of the House was quite able to defend himself. He was not aware that the late Speaker was guilty of the conduct alleged against him. He had been elected by a majority of this House and he (Mr. Pardee) believed that his present course was approved of by a majority of this House. He had pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. RYKERT congratulated the member for Welland upon the position in which he was about to be placed.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE did not think fit all this time to reply to the statements that had been made; and he hoped the House would proceed at once to the election of Speaker.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously, and the Hon. J. G. Currie, was conducted to the Chair by the Hon. Mr. Blake and Mr. Pardee.

Mr. SPEAKER briefly thanked the House for the honour conferred upon him. He would strive to fulfil the duties of his office faithfully and impartially and he hoped he