

and rare intervals, perhaps only in the lifetime of an exceptionally long-lived Speaker do they occur at all. But I must not detain Col. Clarke from the honour which awaits him. In a few moments he will be Speaker of this House, and I may take the opportunity of offering him in advance my warmest congratulations, and I think I can congratulate the House as well upon the fortunate choice which has been made. (Cheers.)

Mr. MEREDITH—I do not rise for the purpose of offering any objection to the motion which has been made by my hon. friend the leader of the Government, but to express the feeling of this side of the House in favour of the selection that the hon. gentleman has made. (Cheers.) I have had the good fortune of sitting in this House along with my hon. friend the member for Centre Wellington since 1873, and I can bear testimony to his urbanity, dignity, and impartiality in all the positions he has occupied. My hon. friend the member for South Bruce has not, perhaps, said all that he ought to have said. He said that the rights and privileges of this House are largely in the hands of the Speaker. I may add that the rights and privileges of the minority are largely in the hands of the Speaker of this House, and it is because I and my friends on this side of the House have every confidence in the impartiality of the hon. member for Centre Wellington that we are in favour of his nomination. My hon. friend, it is true, is not a member of the legal profession, which may be thought a disadvantage, but I venture to think that long experience and the application of his good common sense to the affairs that may occupy his attention as Speaker will enable him successfully to discharge the duties of that office. His selection may be considered as an honour to the lay members of the House, and will be particularly gratifying to the hon. the Treasurer, who has a decided objection to lawyers occupying any position anywhere except as colleagues of that hon. gentleman. (Cheers and laughter.)

The newly-elected Speaker was then, amid the cheers of the House, conducted to the chair by the mover and seconder of his nomination.

Mr. SPEAKER—Before taking my seat I will be permitted to tender my warm and earnest thanks to my fellow-members for this proof of their confidence, and to express the hope that during my continuance in this chair I shall do nothing to lessen in the slightest degree that confidence. I do not accept this position without a full knowledge of the responsibility it entails. I would not accept it if I did not know that there are gentlemen on both sides of the House with larger parliamentary experience than myself who will be always ready to tender their assistance in my efforts to maintain the rights and privileges of the House. In taking this chair I cannot forget that I am a member of a party, and that I represent a constituency in which that party is largely in the majority, but in this chair I trust I shall not be influenced by partisan feelings. I trust that when I come to leave this chair I shall still retain the confidence that I have at this moment. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 3:40.