

should be elected.
The Attorney-General
by proposing that Francis
Alfred Evanturel take the
chair as Speaker.

MR. STRATTON SECONDS IT.

In seconding the motion Mr. Stratton confirmed all that had been said by Mr. Hardy of the high qualities of mind and heart possessed by the late Mr. Balfour. Proceeding, he said:—

"In regard to the present nominee, it may be said that the Attorney-General in making the motion has maintained the traditions of this Government in being invariably fortunate in the selection of a gentleman to preside over the important deliberations of this House, and I have no doubt that the 30th session of this Legislature will also maintain the traditions still by un-animously electing the hon. gentleman whose name has been mentioned by the Attorney-General. It is true that Mr. Evanturel has not had so long an experience in the Legislature as some of his predecessors, more especially his immediate predecessor, but he came into the House the same year that I had the honor to enter it, and his ability and capacity for the effective representation of his constituency, and the knowledge that he had acquired of Parliamentary procedure and precedents, amply fit him, I believe, for a post so important as that of the Speaker's chair. It is very gratifying to know in this, the sixtieth year of her Ma-

jesty's reign, that in the first Province of the first colony of the first empire of the world a man's race and religion are not taken into consideration by the members of this House, but that only ability, integrity and fitness for the position are required. I have no doubt that the legal training which has been referred to by the Attorney-General and the knowledge that Mr. Evanturel has acquired of constitutional law will be a benefit to him instead of a detriment in the chair to which I believe that he will be unanimously elected. I have every reason to hope and believe that Mr. Evanturel will occupy the position with dignity and with judicial impartiality, and that the tenure of his office will demonstrate that he has all the abilities that are required for the proper discharge of the important duties that may fall to the lot of the first Commoner of the Province." Mr. Stratton concluded by formally seconding the motion, which the Clerk put to the House.

MR. WHITNEY APPROVES.

The first speech in the House of the new leader of the Opposition, Mr. Whitney, since he assumed his new responsibility was listened to with close attention. He said: "It is so seldom that the gentlemen who sit at the left of the Speaker have an opportunity of agreeing with a proposition that comes from the hon. gentlemen who sit on the treasury benches that when one does find himself in that position he feels, I might almost say, the tension of the situation. I will say, however, premising that I intended to endorse the action of the Government in this respect, that it may be perhaps a matter of surprise throughout this Province, and a great many people may perhaps wonder as I wondered to-day at the choice of my hon. friend, the Premier, not at all on the merits of the choice which are beyond cavil, but we have heard and some of us have believed during the past few months that Mr. Evanturel was to be taken into the Cabinet and to be given a position there not only in accordance with the desires and aspirations, naturally so, of his own people, but with the belief in the fitness of such a promotion, which, I think, was generally shared in by the people of this Province. I have not the means of judging as to the reasons which have moved the Government to refrain from taking Mr. Evanturel into the Cabinet. They have selected him as their nominee for Speaker, and I imagine that all the members of the House are heartily in accord with the choice for several reasons. I agree with my hon. friend the Premier when he says that Mr. Evanturel has all the qualities, natural and acquired, which fit a gentleman to occupy the position of Speaker with credit to himself and with safety to the rights and privileges of the people and their representatives assembled over whom he presides. There can be no question whatever upon the that by his education,

early associations and experience in public life he is, I might almost say, peculiarly fitted, well fitted for the position which we here unanimously this afternoon will confer upon him. I welcome him for these reasons, and I shall say, and I am glad to say it in this most public place, that those who sit upon the left of the Speaker are willing to place their privileges and rights in the hands of Mr. Evanturel, being sure that, as in the past, their privileges have been secure in the hands and under the direction of a long line of distinguished predecessors, so they will be found to be safe in the future under his guidance and care. For the reasons briefly touched upon by Mr. Stratton I also rejoice. I rejoice to welcome my friend here as the compatriot of Cartier and Tache, and to express publicly my pleasure at seeing that distinctions of race and creed in this country shall not be a hindrance to a man obtaining a public position. I welcome him, then, as the compatriot of these great men, and I am to be pardoned, I am sure, when I say that as I recognize these great men who have been politically associated with the great party to which I have the honor to belong, I may express the belief that the result of the present choice will bear out our expectations. I have no hesitation in saying that events like the choice of to-day will have a tendency for good in this country. For these reasons, which I have hastily and imperfectly given, I felicitate Mr. Evanturel upon his selection as Speaker, and I congratulate the Premier upon the wisdom of his choice."

MR. SPEAKER REPLIES.

The Clerk put the question, and amid applause Mr. Evanturel was elected. The new Speaker was conducted to the chair by Mr. Hardy and Mr. Stratton. Before sitting down Mr. Evanturel acknowledged the honor done him in these words:—

"It is with no ordinary emotion that I have to thank my colleagues of the Legislative Assembly for the great honor which they have just bestowed upon me. The honorable position to which I have just been raised has been occupied from Confederation until lately by some of the most eminent statesmen of this great Province, and some of the most gifted sons of Ontario. I have not the vanity to believe that I can fill that position in the manner in which they have filled it, and therefore I crave the liberty to assure my colleagues that I shall rely upon the indulgence, forbearance, good-will and sympathy of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House. I shall endeavor to follow closely in the footsteps of my last predecessor, whose footsteps are still to be found fresh upon the steps leading to this chair. I shall also make it my aim to follow the long and traditional practice of this House from Confederation to the present day, and be guided as much as practicable by the decisions of the Imperial and colonial Parliaments. I desire, therefore, to say to the hon. gentlemen who have elevated me to this position that if I cannot fill it with ability I pledge myself before I take that chair that all my decisions shall be marked by impartiality. I desire to reiterate to the House the sentiments of my gratitude for the great honor which it has bestowed upon my shoulders." Much applause followed the conclusion of this neat and appropriate little speech.

RETURN OF SIR CASIMIR.

The Speaker took his seat and Sergeant-at-Arm Glackmeyer put the mace on the table. Then he shouldered the precious bauble and went off in search of the Lieutenant-Governor's Administrator, who was meantime awaiting events without the House. Presently Sir Casimir and his guard of honor came in. The gallant old Knight took his seat on the throne, the chair having been vacated by the Speaker. The Speaker reported to her Majesty's representative what had transpired in his absence in these formal words:—

"The Legislative Assembly have elected me as Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

"If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duties to their Queen and country hereby claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especial-