

I am conscious that the satisfactory performance of its many duties will, at times, call for the manifestation of qualities to which I lay no special claim. But so far as patience and impartiality, a careful regard for the just rights of each and every one of you, a resolute purpose to use with diligence every available moment of the session, with an eye to the perfection and passage of wise and valuable legislation, and a sincere desire to merit your confidence and approval, tend to make an acceptable presiding officer, you may be sure that no effort on my part shall be spared to justify your selection and to prove by my conduct how heartily I thank you.

I bring to the place a limited knowledge of parliamentary rules, but shall rely on you to give me your kind assistance, and to make up for my inexperience by your generous and indulgent forbearance.

With mutual confidence and support we may hope for beneficial results to all the great interests of the State with which we may be called upon to deal.

Again thanking you for the distinction that you have conferred upon me, I am now ready to take the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, and request the gentleman from Carroll county, Mr. James G. Berret, to administer it.

On motion,

The Speaker's address was ordered to be spread upon the Journal.

Hon. James G. Berret then administered the oath of office to the Speaker-elect, who subscribed the same on the Test Book of the House of Delegates.

The Speaker, in accordance with the custom of the House, directed that the members-elect be severally called and qualified by delegations.

The following members-elect were then severally qualified by the Speaker, in the presence of each other, by taking the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, and subscribed the same in the Test Book of the House of Delegates:

*St. Mary's county.*—Robert C. Combs, George R. Garner.

*Kent county.*—T. Romie Strong, J. Fletcher Wilson.