

Mr. BELCOURT. That is my business.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, these gentlemen, these Liberals throughout the country who have some difference with the government with regard to the principle of this measure, will have to decide for themselves as to those that term applies to, because they get no information whatever on the subject from the hon. member for Ottawa.

Mr. BELCOURT. It applies to whoever the cap will fit.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It was applied to them, as I understood, somewhat comprehensively. I did not notice that the hon. gentleman, in making his remarks, expressed any reservation, I understood his words had a general application.

Mr. BELCOURT. Whoever the cap will fit may wear it.

Mr. R. L. BORREN. Then whoever differs from the government is a renegade Liberal, according to the member for Ottawa, because this cap may fit him. Now something has been said about the interference of clergymen in the province of Ontario and elsewhere, and I myself have read protests passed in different portions of the maritime provinces by religious bodies and bodies composed of clergymen, in regard to this matter. They have been charged, as I understand also, with exciting religious prejudice and race discord, so I suppose the observations of the Minister of Customs will apply to these gentlemen as well. Does he charge them with exciting religious prejudice and race discord?

Mr. PATERSON. I do not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, then, I want the Minister of Customs to answer me this: Where has anything been said in this House in criticism of this measure that goes beyond the protest to which he referred from his Liberal friends throughout the country, and from clergymen in the province of Ontario and in the maritime provinces?

Mr. PATERSON. A great deal has been said that goes beyond.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, I have not heard it, my hon. friend has not quoted it. Now I have here the expression of the hon. member for Ottawa to which I alluded, it is this:

Is it not true, Mr. Speaker, that this agitation has been confined almost exclusively to the Conservative press and to gentlemen who belong to the Conservative party? With the exception of a few misguided or misinformed or renegade Liberals, the agitation has been carried on.

That is the expression.

Mr. BELCOURT. Some hon. gentlemen on the other side asked me if that was applicable to the 'Globe.' Perhaps the hon. gentleman will go on and read what I said.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would the hon. gentleman like me to read it?

Mr. LENNOX. What about the 'Globe.'

Mr. BELCOURT. I said renegade Liberals.

Anything further? Well, I will leave it in that way, Mr. Speaker. Now some criticism has been made by the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Agriculture with regard to my having adverted in this House to a statement made by the Hon. Robert Rogers. May I be permitted respectfully to observe that I made no reference to that, except a very brief one yesterday, after it had been introduced into this House by the right hon. the Prime Minister himself. My observations to-day were not based upon what Mr. Rogers said in the interview referred to; my observations were confined almost exclusively to the statement which has been given out by His Excellency, the delegate of the Holy See. I did not base that article, although the article has been characterized as a hearsay article by the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald). He asked whether I did not know as a lawyer that hearsay evidence is of no value? I ask him as a member of this House who sat here and heard me, where were his ears? Does he not know, or did not he hear at all? What is the use of his talking about hearsay evidence?

Mr. MACDONALD. Does my hon. friend undertake to say that he does not pay any attention to this statement of Mr. Rogers, and does not put it forward as a ground for this discussion?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The question of my hon. friend is an impertinent one. That is all I have to say with regard to it.

Mr. MACDONALD. My learned friend can characterize it as he pleases.

Mr. FIELDING. The leader of the opposition cannot characterize it as he pleases, he cannot use the word 'impertinent.'

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Mr. Speaker, you will be good enough to observe that we have a new speaker, the hon. the Minister of Finance, who is giving us his ruling.

Mr. FIELDING. I rise to a point of order.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have the floor, and the Minister of Finance is out of order in attempting to take it from me.

Mr. FIELDING. I rise to a point of order.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Very good.

Mr. FIELDING. I submit that the leader of the opposition is not at liberty to say that the speech of the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) was impertinent.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not say so; I said his question was impertinent.