

for Lower Canada had never spoken anything but French in this House, the members from Upper Canada would have learned that language in order to understand him; but as he wishes to make them understand him without putting them to that trouble, he most frequently speaks English. (Hear, hear.) It is said that in the resolutions the guarantees which we seek to have for our language, our laws and our institutions are not clearly enough expressed, and that the Imperial Government might, consequently, confer upon us something other than that for which we ask. But could not the Imperial Government impose Confederation upon us as it did the union? And as it does not do so, but is merely desirous of being consulted, we ought not to believe that it will impose upon us conditions which are opposed to our interests.

HON. MR. LAFRAMBOISE—It is proposed to impose it on the Lower Provinces, who do not wish for it.

MR. RÉMILLARD—Certain hon. members consider our present position an excellent one, and say they do not wish it altered. But that is not the opinion of the greater number, and nearly all the hon. members of the Opposition have declared that changes are indispensable and necessary. The hon. member for Hochelaga has acknowledged it, and has expressed his opinion on the subject. When I was a supporter of the MACDONALD-DORION Administration, I understood that the members of that Government were of opinion that changes were necessary, and that we could not very long remain in our present position. The hon. member for Hochelaga has admitted that the opinion of Upper Canada must be respected, and that to it would have to be granted representation based on population; and the influence of Upper Canada made itself felt by the MACDONALD-DORION Administration; it made itself felt especially when, just before the last general elections, it became necessary to oust the Honorable Mr. SICOTTE from the Ministry to satisfy Upper Canada. By means of Mr. SICOTTE, elections had been secured sufficiently advantageous in their results to overthrow the CARTIER-MACDONALD Administration, to which I was opposed, because I did not wish to see a coalition between the parties, and because I considered that that Government had made too free a use of the public money. But I foresaw that sooner or later I should return to the

Conservative party, from which I had detached myself in consequence of the extravagant conduct of two or three of its leaders, and in consequence I was then elected without the assistance of any party. Alone I strove with the Conservative party in my county. I was faithful to the friends with whom I went at the time, and I do not regret that I went with them; so long as they stood in need of me, I supported them in order that they might avail themselves of circumstances to bring about a change in the financial affairs of the country. I would not change my party then, but matters and circumstances having changed, I consulted my friends in the county which I represent, and I was then able to go with the men whom I consider able to protect and preserve our institutions and the interests of the country in general. For this reason I am prepared to accept the scheme of Confederation prepared by them, for I have more confidence, as regards the preservation of our rights and our institutions, in the men who are now in power than in those with whom I formerly worked. (Hear, hear.) I cannot do otherwise than declare it. It is not my wish to insult any one; I merely state the reasons which have decided me to go with them; and as I find that it is always necessary to be in favor of one party or the other in this House, that is to say, for that one which is considered to be the best, I do not hesitate to state my opinion and to declare myself in favor of the Conservative party. (Hear, hear.) It was my intention to reply to the speech of the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. PERRAULT), but I perceive that my ideas do not flow rapidly, and moreover, I do not wish longer to fatigue the House.

SEVERAL VOICES—Go on! go on!

MR. RÉMILLARD—Well, I listened with pain to the language used by the hon. member for Richelieu. Should what he said in French be repeated by some one in English, I should greatly fear that it would give rise to prejudice against us among the English members. (Hear, hear.) Last year he said to the members from Upper Canada,—"The French-Canadians are learning the use of arms, and if you insist upon having representation based upon population, they will be turned against you;" and this year he says that one Lower Canadian can stand against ten Upper Canadians. He considers himself fortunate in being under