

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I call the attention of some hon. members to the fact that the hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Lennox) has the floor and that he has a right to be heard.

Mr. LENNOX. I may say that I was not anxious to speak at this time. I have only spoken once upon the Bill, and I would not have spoken now had the hon. member for East Grey been given fair-play. I feel that not only has an injustice been done to him, but a very great injustice has been done to the Orange body. I have a large number of the members of that order in my riding. They are amongst the best citizens of South Simcoe—they are not better than the others, but I do say emphatically that there are none better. I do not think I should be doing right if I did not call attention to the matter which has cropped up in this way. I have refrained from speaking on many occasions in this debate, because, in common with the Orange body of this country, I desire that peace and harmony shall prevail amongst all classes of the people, that we may unitedly work out the destiny of the country without distinction of creed, and without emphasizing those prejudices which make for division. If we are to work in peace and harmony, it will not be because hon. gentlemen in the flush of youth, like the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. A. Lavergne) interrupt hon. gentlemen on this side and seek to divert their attention from the serious issues before us. That hon. gentleman (Mr. A. Lavergne) has been very conspicuous in interrupting me until you, Mr. Chairman, were obliged to call him to order. I trust he will live to realize that it is no proof of wisdom to be constantly speaking when others have the floor.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I do not wish to justify the article published in 'Le Canada'; but, if the House will trust my translation, I will read it first in French and then translate it into English. Hon. members will see that only an extract has been read to the House. They will see that that article is an answer to a series of attacks contained in certain circulars which were distributed in the late campaign of North Oxford and London.

Mr. INGRAM. By whom?

Mr. LEMIEUX. The hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) will please wait. I have already said that I do not justify this article, nor can any hon. member of this House justify the attacks. The article is published in 'Le Canada' of June 10th last.

The 'Mail,' the 'World' and the 'News' are boasting that the by-elections in London and North Oxford are being fought on a question of principle, on the question of provincial rights.

Well, here is the language which these good farmers make use of in calling upon the electors to vote against the government:

Mr. LENNOX.

Vote against the attempt to impose on the Northwest a system of education which is a relic of centuries of ignorance, which attempts to perpetuate repulsive superstitions, cruel persecutions and degrading dogmas which are dethroning conscience, violating reason and obscuring intelligence.

It is by such ignoble arguments, by such odious calumnies, that the Canadian electors are expected to vote for the candidate of Mr. Borden, for the protégé of Dr. Sproule, for the chosen of Mr. Foster and the friend of Mr. Maclean. It is in the name of a candidate for whom such appeals are made that the name of our respected King is used in another electoral circular.

A vote for Billy Grey is a vote for King Edward.

On the same lines and with the same logic the name of the Pope is opposed to that of King Edward, and they apply to him the odious epithets by which are qualified the system of education which teaches Catholic dogma. Dr. Sproule got mad one day because a Protestant Liberal paper had styled the electoral division of Toronto as a division of yellow dogs. If the great Orange leader is so sensitive, why does he insult a system of education and a religion which is approved and professed by forty-one per cent of the population of this country?

Yellow dog is a term too polite to designate the people under the command of Dr. Sproule, who stirs up the dust of sectarian passion. The dog is generally clean. The friends and performers of the base work of Dr. Sproule and his chief Mr. R. L. Borden, are too dirty individuals to be compared with dogs, even yellow dogs.

And to think that these men had the audacity to spread their infamous statement under the cover of the blasphemous title—to use the words of the 'Globe'—'For God and country.'

Now, Mr. Chairman, I say it again, I do not approve, I do not justify the answer which was made to the attacks which are quoted in this article. Now I will translate it to the best of my ability.

The war cry—some of the arguments used by the Tories in London and Woodstock.

The 'Mail,' the 'World' and the 'News' are boasting that the by-elections in London and North Oxford are made on the question of provincial rights. Here are some of the expressions used and some of the appeals made to the electors to obtain their votes against the government.

Here is now the attack contained in the circular. I have seen the circular myself in room 16 the other day and read it.

Mr. SAM HUGHES. Who wrote it?

Mr. LEMIEUX. It was not circulated in London or in North Oxford anyway, by my friend the Minister of Public Works or by the new member for Oxford. Here is the attack contained in the circular:

Vote against the attempt to impose on the Northwest a system of education which is a relic of centuries of ignorance, which attempts to perpetuate repulsive superstitions, cruel persecutions and degrading dogmas which are dethroning conscience, violating reason and obscuring intelligence.

The article concludes: