

renegade Liberals, the agitation has been carried on—

Mr. LENNOX. What about the 'Globe'?

Mr. BELCOURT. I said renegade Liberals. The agitation has been carried on almost exclusively by the Conservatives of this province. And is it not extraordinary, Mr. Speaker, how much religion people who, up to a certain moment, are known to have no religion at all, can develop on occasion? It is perfectly extraordinary how much religion has been developed in this province within the last few weeks. It is extraordinary how much religion has been professed by people who have constituted themselves the doughty champions of a faith which nobody attacks, and which certainly is in no danger.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I hope the hon. gentleman will direct my attention to that clause. He has charged Mr. Haultain, who is not here, with having changed his mind, and I would like to see the clause he refers to. There was a clause like section 2 and one like section 15, but I do not recollect any like section 16. I am positive as to that. I think it would be only fair for the hon. gentleman to indicate to us what he means.

Mr. BELCOURT. If my hon. friend will permit me, I have the clause before me, and I will read it. I may be wrong as to the effect of it, as I was speaking from memory:

On, from and after the said first day of January, 1903, the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, except those parts thereof which are in terms made or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to or to affect only one or more but not the whole of the provinces under that Act composing the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this Act, shall be applicable to the province of ——— in the same way and to the same extent as they apply to the several provinces of Canada and as if the province of ——— had been one of the provinces originally united by the said Act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is practically clause 2 of this Bill.

Mr. BELCOURT. That may be.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where is the clause equivalent to clause 16 of this Bill as to which my hon. friend said Mr. Haultain had changed his mind? In justice to Mr. Haultain, who is not here, my hon. friend should read the clause to the House or withdraw that statement.

Mr. BELCOURT. That is the clause I read.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is not clause 16.

Mr. BELCOURT. The clause I read is the one Mr. Haultain proposed in his draft Bill two years ago.

Mr. BELCOURT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is clause 2 of this Bill. My hon. friend as I understand, said that Mr. Haultain had placed in his draft Bill a clause the same as clause 16.

Mr. BELCOURT. I said in effect, and I have read it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Then my hon. friend says that clause 2 is the same as clause 16.

Mr. BELCOURT. No. What I meant, and what I think I said, was that in 1902, Mr. Haultain, in submitting to the government a draft of the Bill providing for autonomy, submitted a clause which virtually had the same effect as section 16.

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE. I have in my possession that draft and would be glad to show the hon. gentleman section 13.

Mr. BELCOURT. I doubt very much if the passions and prejudices of so many people would have been aroused to the extent they have been by hon. gentlemen opposite if they had not expected to derive some party advantage from it; and when the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) resigned his portfolio, they concluded that their day had come and that if they could only keep up the agitation and make the storm still greater, some very great material, political benefit would be the result. They succeeded in getting their leader who, we believe, up to that point was very undecided as to the position he should take, to adopt their views and take the course he did.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman is stating that of which he has no knowledge and for which there is not the slightest foundation in fact. The statement is made recklessly, and should not be made by an hon. gentleman of his standing in the House, without better foundation than he can possibly have for it. It is absolutely untrue.

Mr. BELCOURT. I am sorry to have aroused the ire of my hon. friend in this way. If my hon. friend says that he had made up his mind as to the course he was going to take on the very day this Bill was presented, of course I accept his statement.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend knows that that is not the portion of his remarks to which I was referring. He said that I was induced by pressure to take a course which I at first hesitated about. Naturally I looked into the constitutional question and made up my mind about that at the earliest possible moment, because it was upon that question alone that the right hon. gentleman relied in introducing the Bill. But when he suggests that pressure was put upon me by any hon. gentleman on this side to take one course or the other, or by any one outside the House,—with the