

a certain church. Who brought that somebody? The present government. Who are charged with discharging the functions of the government or the functions of the state to-day? The present government. Who have given over a portion of those functions to the Papal ablegate? The present government. Who is responsible then for that improper interference of his? I say it is the present government and that they and they alone, will be held responsible for it. There is no doubt about it whatever. I ask: Is it to be continued? Will it be stopped right here? The people of Canada say it must be stopped and it will be stopped.

Some hon MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. Yes, hon. gentlemen may laugh in derision. The weakling is to the fore again. Sometimes it is said that loud laughter speaks the vacant mind. But there is a stronger voice than that of the weakling and the electors of Canada will speak with no uncertain sound in the future. The members of the government as well as the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) will be obliged to obey their mandate when it is given. In view of all this is it any wonder that there is excitement, that there is a strong feeling created and that there is anxiety in the country to-day? If there is excitement, anxiety, and noise, who is responsible for the whole of it?—The present government who introduced this subject and who brought this man here under false pretenses. There is no doubt about it whatever. The premier says we will fight this to the bitter end. Yes, we will fight it. He has given the challenge and I want to tell him in the name of the people of Canada that that challenge has been accepted. The same challenge was thrown down by the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) some nights ago when he said that this fight will never cease until we accomplish the end which we have in view. We accept that challenge and this fight is going on. I say that there shall be no cessation of it until we show that church that this is not one of the rights which belong to a church, but that it is a right belonging to the state, and if this government will not do their duty they must get out of office because the people will hold them to account. They themselves began it. They gave the challenge and they will be met on every platform in this broad Dominion of Canada. This discussion is going on. We have the inalienable right of free speech in this country as in every British country in every part of the world. I say that we will transfer this discussion from this tribunal to the high tribunal of the nation, we will let that tribunal speak and when the voice of the nation has been heard we will be vindicated in what we are doing to-day, because we are fighting the fight of constitutional government. We are fighting against the interference of

the church with the state, we are fighting along the lines of the British constitution and in doing so we believe that we are doing what would be regarded as our duty not only as politicians but as statesmen in any part of the British empire.

Hon. Wm. PATERSON (Minister of Customs). Mr. Speaker, having already spoken upon the second reading of the Bill I did not intend to say anything more, one speech only being allowed while the Speaker is in the chair, until the Bill is in committee. Nor, would I have spoken to-night, when another motion made by the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) affords an opportunity for speaking, except for the reason that I think it is now time that there should perhaps be more speaking from this side of the House. I have abstained from endeavouring to waste the time of the House—I do not want to use that expression in an improper way—taking up the time of the House—further than is necessary in order to intelligently discuss questions coming before us. To-day we are not engaged in discussing the question that is properly before us. We are not discussing a question of principle. We have been moved to adjourn the House to afford the hon. leader of the opposition an opportunity of supplementing the remarks he made yesterday in reference to the statement that was made by a brother Tory of his through the medium of the newspapers. He did not say—and I do not blame him for it—all that he perhaps should have said to the House yesterday and he took this opportunity of returning to it again. The opportunity has been taken advantage of by other hon. gentlemen opposite and the object, as I conceive it, that these hon. gentlemen have is not to discuss whether church and state are being united in the Bill before this House or whether the principle of provincial rights is involved; the one object it seems to me, not judging uncharitably, of that letter, that manifesto—call it what you will—of Mr. Rogers, the speeches of the hon. leader of the opposition and the bringing it up in the House the second time, the speech of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) and the hon. member for South York (Mr. Maclean) were not to establish a principle or to declare that church and state shall not be united, but the object is that these men want to inflame the passions of the people of this country. There is no other object. A high object that is for gentlemen sitting in the parliament of Canada! Upon what statement has this been brought up—a statement by Mr. Rogers. Who is he? The bosom friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, is he not? Why did he write that letter on the 23rd? What did the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Staples) tell us—it was written and he rang the bell from room No. 6 and it was sent. What was he doing in No. 6?