

M.P.; A. Bourbonnais, M.P.; C. Pouliot, M.P.; Joseph Godbout, M.P.; A. M. Dechene, M.P.

This letter, which was sent by the forty immortals of this country to His Holiness the Pope, complained of certain political grievances which they had in this country, supporting the request already made that he would send a delegate to this country to look after their interests and to protect them from what is here set forth, namely, the unfair interference of the clerics in the province of Quebec with the rights of the electors, and especially with the rights of members of parliament. I must say that I am rather disappointed in the opinion I had formed of the clergy of Quebec after the high commendation of their conduct given by the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) last night, when I see that he has stigmatized, more than any one I know, with these forty immortals from Quebec, the clergy of that province. They have charged them with all kinds of political interference, they charged them with interfering with the rights of the people to vote, and they asked His Holiness to interfere with these clergy in the province of Quebec, so that when the hon. member for Labelle says that members from Ontario have been throwing stones at the clergy of Quebec, he has evidently forgotten that he and forty others signed this document to have a delegate sent out here to regulate the clergy of the province of Quebec. As a matter of fact, the ablegate was sent out here; we have had three or four of them.

Mr. BRODEUR. I understand my hon. friend read from a certain petition asking that a delegate be sent here. Would he be kind enough to repeat the part of the petition in which that was included?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I said this document set out the grievances and that other missions and presentations made at Rome requested a delegate to be sent out and especially the letter of the right hon. the Prime Minister, which asked that an ablegate be sent to this country and he was sent. We have the facts that these gentlemen, all engaged in politics, after stigmatizing the clergy of Quebec, undertook a mission to Rome to get His Holiness' consent to the appointment of an ablegate to this country for political purposes, that that ablegate has practically had a political mission, that that ablegate from Rome has been here as an appanage of the Grit machine in this country and that especially he was to be the Papal policeman with a big stick to keep the bishops and clergy of this country in order. This is a fair inference to draw from the representations that were made to Rome and from the conduct of the ablegate in this country. I know it for a fact—at least I have seen it stated and I do not think it will be denied—that at the recent election and at other times Liberal candidates in all parts of the country, or some

of them, when they had a grievance against any of the clergy of the church of Rome, immediately telephoned to the big policeman at Ottawa to take his big stick and wire back disciplining the Roman Catholic clergyman who dared to hold an opinion of his own in regard to politics.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Again they are laughing, but they laugh when the facts are brought home to them. The truth is, and it is admitted on the other side of the House, that this Papal ablegate was brought to this country as an appanage of the Grit machine, that he is the policeman with the big stick to discipline the bishops and the clergy of the Roman Catholic church and that those who, more than any one else, stigmatized the hierarchy and clergy of Quebec were the forty immortals who signed that document on that occasion.

Now, the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) this afternoon got rather eloquent and grew rather warm when he charged this side of the House with enkindling the flames of ill-feeling in this country. I want to know who lit the flame, who set the heather on fire over this question.

An hon. MEMBER. You did.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I say that it was the right hon. Prime Minister of this country who introduced this Bill at the request of a solid Quebec to coerce the minority in regard to educational matters in the Northwest. That is what caused the flame, that is what lit the torch, or in other words, the torch was carried and fired the moment the right hon. gentleman introduced that Bill.

Mr. BUREAU. Will the hon. gentleman tell the House where he gets his authority for the statement that this Bill was introduced at the request of a solid Quebec?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The proof positive is that a solid Quebec will support him.

Mr. BOURASSA. If that be true was it introduced at the request of a solid Nova Scotia, because a solid Nova Scotia will support it also?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. We will see about that. We have heard about a bolt in Nova Scotia over this Bill and we will hear more of it. What else has fanned the flame? The thing that fanned the flame was the discovery by the great Protestant element of this country that the right hon. Prime Minister had deceived them. He told them by his conduct in the elections of 1896 that the Manitoba question had been settled, that in this country there was to be no more coercion, that the sunny ways had settled this question and these people took him at his word. They accepted the pledge which he made when, as the hon. Minister