

has been said that the newspapers, particularly the Conservative newspapers of Toronto, have not been fair in their criticism of this Bill or of the men connected with this legislation, and I think that there are hon. members on the Conservative side of this House who will admit that there is considerable foundation for that censure. Take for instance the Toronto 'Telegram' of the 24th March, and on page seven you will find those words:

Mr. Monk delivered a carefully and cleverly prepared speech, a speech which created intense enthusiasm in the camp of his political opponents, which was an ingenious argument and sectarian appeal, and which is intended to offset in Quebec the Carleton-born declaration of R. L. Borden.

Mr. Monk, according to the Tory plan of campaign, supports the school clause, but condemns the retention of crown lands by the federal government as unconstitutional, control of crown lands going with the crown, and consequently being an inseparable part of provincial autonomy. His endorsement of the school clause was absolute, occasionally frantic. When he got away from legal precepts he was angry and bitter.

Now, that is a criticism from the 'Telegram,' a Conservative paper edited by Mr. John Ross Robertson, who for some years occupied a seat in this House as a Conservative member, and whose name was mentioned, I believe, recently by the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) as a fit and proper person to occupy the seat made vacant by the death of the late lamented Mr. E. F. Clarke. This is a criticism from a Conservative, who is politically friendly to the Conservative party. Surely one would have expected that a gentleman of the standing of Mr. Robertson would have understood better what is due to his position, and would have had greater respect for our Canadian parliament of which he was at one time a member, than to have indulged in any such accusations or statements or insinuations unless he had undoubted proof of their accuracy. Yet what does he say? He says in fact that when the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) delivered the speech he did on the question now before the House, he spoke not his own mind, not as directed by his own judgment, but as a tool in the hands of a party caucus and as merely carrying out the Tory plan of campaign. And in the same criticism Mr. Robertson says, too, that the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) did not express his own mind, did not speak from principle, but was driven to the stand he did take by his constituents in Carleton, and that he, too, was but a tool in the hands of a party caucus, forging his little link in the chain which has been designed by those who planned the Tory campaign. If we are to believe Mr. Robertson, while those gentlemen expressed views so much opposed the one to the other, they were after all but two lovely berries moulded on one stem,

and 'all but parts of one stupendous whole.' Yet the hon. the leader of the opposition has assured us that he was not driven to any decision by the utterances or the feelings of his constituents in the county of Carleton. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) has not told us whether his speech was made for him or by him, but I do not think that those who had the pleasure of listening to him in this House require that he should tell us whether his speech was made by himself or dictated by the party caucus. And those who listened to him will do him the justice to say that he was never at any part of his speech either frantic or angry or even bitter. But the point I would make is this. If Mr. Robertson, the Conservative editor of a Conservative newspaper, will allow his feelings and passions to so run away with him that he will descend to insinuations and accusations so unsupportable by fact against the leader of his own party and one of that leader's lieutenants, what can we expect of such a man when he criticises and censures the leader of the Reform government which he is so anxious to defeat, overthrow and destroy. I do not know whether it is safe to quote in this House words from Conservative newspapers. We had a little while ago the leader of the opposition telling us that an hon. gentleman had made an exhibition of himself because he dared to quote from the Hamilton 'Spectator.' Let me again refer to that article in the 'Spectator' in which the writer declares that no French Canadian could ever again be premier of this Dominion. That, Sir, was a most atrocious statement. No man in his sane moments could be justified in making any such statements.

Sir, we have in the Dominion of Canada a great number of French Canadians who have been an honour and a source of pride to this land in which we live. We have also, Sir, in this country, and perhaps particularly in the western part of the province in which I live, a large number of German Canadians who are among the best citizens we have, who are developing our manufacturing industries, and, by their energy, thrift and untiring business enterprise, are doing much to build up our Ontario cities and cultivate and improve our Canadian farms. I say it is a shame and disgrace for any man to say, in the columns of a newspaper or elsewhere, that a man whose forbears, perhaps, have spoken naturally the German or the French language, shall never occupy the first position in this country. But, Sir, bad as it was for the editor of the Hamilton 'Spectator,' to say these words, I think it was almost infinitely worse that Mr. John Ross Robertson, as we find in the 'Telegram' of last Saturday, should have rebuked the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) and the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) by saying that they would have enough to do in apologizing for their own errors and mistakes, and ought to