

never applied to this government for money to publish them in that language. As a matter of fact, can the hon. member (Mr. Monk) refer to any one instance for the last twenty years in which French has been used in the pleadings before the courts of the Northwest Territories?

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) gave a very good answer to that.

Mr. BRODEUR. A few days ago I corresponded with Mr. Lambert and Mr. Prince, the two French speaking members of the Northwest assembly on this subject, and I sent them the following telegram:

Will you please inform me whether the French language is used in the pleadings before the courts, or if the proceedings, oral or written, are all made in English?

Mr. Lambert member for St. Albert replied:

French language not used in courts; proceedings, oral or written, all made in English. requiring the use of interpreters.

Mr. Prince answered:

So far as I know the pleadings before the courts, either oral or written, are all made in English.

Mr. MONK. There are English pleadings in Montreal.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. And in Quebec too.

Mr. BRODEUR. In Montreal most of the pleadings are in French, but the fact remains that the French language is to-day official in the Northwest Territories and nobody asks for it. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) is now bringing this question before this parliament. I do not say that his object is to raise another agitation similar to that which has been going on for some time, but I do say that his policy is calculated to be detrimental to the interests of those whom he seeks to protect. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), representing a constituency miles away from the Northwest Territories asks that the people of the Northwest should have the right to use the French language in the proceedings before the courts of the Northwest, when the people of the Northwest have not asked for that themselves. That is not fair to the minority in the Northwest Territories, and it may bring upon them serious results for which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) will be responsible. Everything is now going on there in peace and harmony, and why cause a disturbance? Last night we heard an hon. gentleman from the Northwest Territories state in this House that if the law as proposed did not absolutely protect the rights of the minority, he would vote to make the law clear on that point. I believe that such a noble sentiment will in future guide those who administer the affairs of the Northwest Territories; that the majority there will see that the interests of the minority are fully

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protected and that the minority will not have to rely upon politicians who may come from the province of Quebec.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. My remarks shall be brief on this question, because the legal point of view has been so fully dealt with by the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), by the Solicitor General, by the Minister of Inland Revenue, and by the right hon. Prime Minister that little is left to be said. In the first place I congratulate the Solicitor General on being in the happy position of pulling with the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) that the French language should be abolished in the Northwest Territories. I take this opportunity of returning the Solicitor General the compliment which he paid me the other evening.

Mr. SPROULE. My party is growing stronger.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. To my hon. friend the Solicitor General I will say: Let us take history as it might have been. Suppose that Canada instead of being an English colony to-day had been conquered by the French and was a French colony and that there was an English group in that colony, there is not an English member in this House who would rise to support a motion for the abolition of the English language. To my hon. friend the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) I may say this much: that if any man in the province of Quebec would declare that because of the expense of publishing official documents in the two languages, and as there was no practical use for their publication in the English language it should cease, the first men in the province of Quebec to stand up in defiance of such an unjust proposition would be the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) who have been denounced in this House as French demagogues.

I heard the hon. member for Labelle say in Montreal that if the French Canadians were treated with injustice in any part of Canada, that was no reason why we should visit reprisals on our English speaking compatriots in the province of Quebec. We are told that we should be satisfied because there are a considerable number of French Canadians who have public positions in this country. The hon. gentleman who advanced that argument reminded me very much of the Polish king who when he was drunk thought all Poland was drunk too. I do not think it is a soothing balm on the wounds of the French Canadian people to know that some of their number have obtained public positions in this country. What does this fact do for the people who claim their rights? What we want are not positions, but the rights that are guaranteed to us by the constitution. I have heard the objection made in private conversation—and I suppose it will be made by