

place and in the second because I feel I am not by any means qualified to tread the same path. However I think it proper to say that my hon. friend's (Mr. Foster's) allusion to my friend the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) should not pass unnoticed and my answer to him will be brief, brief because I trust it will express the sincere convictions which I entertain. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has spoken of the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) as one who has been shorn of his feathers; he has referred to him in contemptuous terms as the erring champion of provincial rights. Now in the first instance let me say that in so far as my hon. friend's allusion to the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) as one who has been shorn of his feathers is concerned, our answer to him is this: We have heard that statement, not so eloquently put forth but put forth very frequently in this House, and our answer is to appeal to the verdict which the people of this country have given in 1896, have given again in 1900 and have renewed in the month of November last, 1904. He has said that the leader of the government has lost the respect and the confidence of the people of this country. I venture to make this statement, Mr. Speaker, that the leader of the government has not lost the respect nor the confidence of any man in this country whose respect and whose confidence he values. My hon. friend has gone on, leaving the path marked out by the leader of the opposition when he began this discussion to-day, to challenge the government to appeal to the country at the present time so as to see whether or not, under existing conditions, the conduct of the government in respect to this Northwest Territories Bill will be approved of. I say Mr. Speaker, and I say it deliberately, and I say it with the honest conviction that my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Foster) will agree with me that designedly gentlemen opposite, as representing the Conservative party, have appealed to passions, have aroused prejudices in this country—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FITZPATRICK—in connection with this Bill upon which they expect to rely. But they will find that appeal in the present time to be nothing more than a broken reed as was the case in 1896 when they endeavoured to appeal to the passions and prejudices of the Catholics in this country.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. SPROULE. I rise to a point of order. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is in order to say that the opposition

deliberately and of set purpose appealed to the passions of the people.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT. What meant your circular?

Mr. SPROULE. I ask the ruling of the Speaker if the hon. gentleman has not gone beyond the bounds 'deliberately and of set purpose'.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think that that statement goes a little beyond the bounds of parliamentary decorum.

Mr. FOSTER. Shave it down.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. If that expression goes beyond the rules of parliamentary etiquette as suggested by the hon. member for North Toronto, I will attempt to pare it down, and instead of making the statement I will bring forward the proof. What is going on at the present time, in this country, Mr. Speaker? What is being done? Petitions are being circulated emanating from the other side, addressed on the one hand to the people of Ontario in the hope that they may arouse them against this Bill on the ground that the privileges of the Northwest Protestants are being invaded. And, on the other hand, what have we going on? Petitions emanating from the same source addressed to the Catholics of the province of Quebec.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We have them in our possession—

Mr. FOSTER. Trot them out.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Petitions are being circulated throughout the province of Quebec asking what? Asking that this government should be forced to adopt that clause in this Bill that hon gentlemen opposite are asking the people from Ontario to repudiate.

Mr. FOSTER. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) allow me a word? He said he was going to prove it. Does he not acknowledge the gravity of the charge? Will he not prove it?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What I for my part, would ask is this: The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has said that there were petitions to the province of Quebec emanating from this side, pointing to myself and to the gentlemen around me, asking the Catholics of that province to urge the government to pass this Bill. Now, I want to tell the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) that, so far as I am concerned—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. So far as I am concerned, and so far as I know—