

insulted the right hon. gentleman, who has the confidence of all French Canadians, and whose qualities, whose talents, whose accomplishments and work have contributed in so marked a degree to enhance the prestige and influence of the French Canadian nationality throughout the Dominion.

I think that the appeals to prejudice—I cannot call them by any other name—to which my hon. friends have resorted, will not have much effect. Yesterday, during the debate, when the hon. member for Labelle was abusing—as he has been constantly doing since the opening of the discussion on this Bill—one of the most distinguished members of this House, the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, I could not help recalling an historical event, and it is this: More than half a century ago, a leader, who proclaimed himself also a great man, and who certainly was such a man admired by the French Canadians of the province of Quebec, induced the people of Lower Canada to take up arms, and brought upon them a disastrous war. But as soon as hostilities had broken out, that great man made haste to take refuge across the border, while the grandfather of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue was meeting death on the battlefield.

Mr. LEONARD. (Translation.) These insults are from a quarter whence I should not have expected them to come.

Mr. LAPOINTE. (Translation.) What is it?

Mr. LEONARD. (Translation.) I understood, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Kamouraska, to state at the outset, that the members from Labelle and Montmagny had unduly reflected on the French Canadian members in this House and the French Canadians generally. However, I notice that the aspersions of the hon. member for Kamouraska, are aimed more particularly at the memory of the man whom these same French Canadian members are fond of exalting very highly at public meetings.

Mr. LAPOINTE. (Translation.) My hon. friend from Laval will be at liberty to go on with his argument by and by, when I am through. It is an historical event which recurred to me, while the hon. member for Labelle was casting abuse on the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, and I think it was my duty towards the hon. gentleman to recall these facts. It is an illustration of the fact that men of action and patriotism are not always those who do the most talking. As regards our friends on the other side of the House, it is no wonder that they should be at one with the hon. member for Labelle in urging these claims in such fine fashion. As the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue and the hon. Solicitor General have stated, these are tactics which might be worthy of attention, if they were initiated by some

party other than that which is now in such sad plight in the province of Quebec. It is hoped that by this means the Conservative party may recover in some measure the prestige which their objectionable policy has caused them irrevocably to lose in the people's opinion.

That renewal of the war waged against the right hon. gentleman in the province of Quebec, in 1896, will have no more effect than the proceeding. In order to be taken seriously, our Conservative friends, would have to carry out great reforms. In the first place, they would have to sever the ties which bind them to the party led by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Borden). They would have to enter their protest once for all against that party which, during the recent elections in Oxford and London, carried on a campaign of insult and abuse against our race and our religion. They would, I say, have to break away from these fanatics, before they can expect to be taken seriously in the province of Quebec. Then again my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) would have to give people time to forget the speech he delivered not long ago, in the course of which he stated that the presence in this country of the Papal Alegate was an insult to the Canadian hierarchy. I fancy it will be a difficult matter for our Conservative friends to pose in the province of Quebec as the champions of their religion and their nationality.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier was quite aware that his amendment would not carry. The hon. member for Beauharnois, when he moved his amendment yesterday, stated at the outset that he well knew what its fate would be here, but that he expected better treatment elsewhere. Such is the motive, as stated by the hon. member for Beauharnois, which induces them to take that stand just now; they hope that the electors of the province of Quebec may thereby be made to recognize the worth of our hon. friends, more fully, perhaps, than it is recognized on this side of the House.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier is well aware that the British North America Act does not guarantee the use of the French language in the Northwest. I notice that my hon. friend from Montmagny is laughing just now. Let him laugh, he does so everlastingly, although he would make us believe that he and the hon. gentleman for Labelle are the only two wise members of the House. I thought the hon. member for Jacques Cartier would resent the scathing references to him contained in the organ of my hon. friend from Labelle. I mean the 'Nationaliste', of Montreal.

Mr. BOURASSA. (Translation.) It matters very little to me what the hon. member may think or say concerning me; however, I would like to state once more that I have nothing to do with the 'Nationaliste.'