

Mr. MONK. (Translation.) I am very sorry to hear what the hon. member has just stated.

Mr. LAPOINTE. (Translation.) The 'Nationaliste' heaps insults on hon. gentlemen who do not agree with the hon. member for Labelle.

Mr. BOURASSA. (Translation.) I have already denied under my signature having anything to do with the editorials of the 'Nationaliste,' and I demand that the hon. gentleman take back what he has just said.

Mr. LAPOINTE. (Translation.) I did not state that the hon. member for Labelle had written these editorials; but I know, as everybody does, that the 'Nationaliste' is under the thumb of the member for Labelle. That newspaper is constantly saying that there is only one member of parliament worthy of the name, the member for Labelle. Now, the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) and the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) will, I presume henceforth be classed along with the member for Labelle, and looked up to by that newspaper as stalwart advocates of the French Canadian cause. The 'Nationaliste' has informed us that the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier is straightening up.

Mr. MONK. (Translation.) Will the hon. gentleman be kind enough to send me a copy of that issue of the 'Nationaliste.'

Mr. LAPOINTE. (Translation.) With the utmost pleasure. In moving this amendment, the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier may have some other object. He may be intent on breaking away from gentlemen on the other side and joining in with the member for Labelle, as I see that the friends of the hon. gentleman for Jacques Cartier are rather hard on him. For instance, the Hamilton 'Spectator,' a Conservative organ, referring to the rumor that the French Canadian members of the opposition were about to sever their party ties and to join the Liberals, thus expresses itself. Here are the very words it uses:

But if it should be that the Quebec French Conservatives are actually thinking of going over to the Liberal party, bag and baggage, then we say that they cannot do it too soon for the good of the Conservative party and of the Dominion of Canada.

That may be the reason which induces the hon. member for Jacques Cartier to break away from the Conservative party; although he prefers joining the hon. member for Labelle, rather than becoming a follower of the right hon. leader of the government, whom the friends of the member for Jacques Cartier have always pointed out to as a man unworthy of the confidence of the people, as a traitor to his race and to his religion. However, if the member for Jacques Cartier falls in with his colleague from Labelle, let him make up his mind to be ever ready to

Mr. BOURASSA.

pardon insults, as the hon. gentleman from Labelle unhesitatingly terms a traitor and a coward whoever differs from his views. I think the hon. gentlemen on the other side will have to be firmly determined, if they wish to get along with the member for Labelle, as he will, no doubt, make life miserable for them.

In rising to address the House, I was anxious to state that the hon. members who follow the leadership of the right hon. Prime Minister, rather than that of the hon. member for Labelle are not and do not play the part of cowards, as that hon. gentleman has thought fit to assume. I do not think that our fellow-citizens in the province of Quebec will look upon as traitors and cowards those members who think that the light shed by the hon. member for Labelle is in no way brighter than that shed by the right hon. leader of the government. I make no special reference to the lights of the hon. member for Montmagny, as he puts his whole confidence in the member for Labelle and is guided solely by that luminary. In a matter of this kind, I think it is a greater evidence of courage to vote against the amendment, than to follow the lead of the members for Labelle and Montmagny; for Conservative organs, such as the 'Evenement,' will not fail to brand us as cowards, renegades, &c. If, on the contrary, we supported the member for Labelle, the 'Nationaliste' would be flying its colours in our honour Sunday next. In voting against that motion, we are in danger of being struck down by the thunderbolts of the tory party hurled by its public men and newspapers with the help of the members for Labelle and Montmagny, as well as of the 'Nationaliste.'

In going over the 'Hansard' for 1890, when that question was discussed in this House, I noticed a speech delivered by the late Sir Wm. Edgar, who came to be later on Speaker of this House, and who was known as one of the great friends of the French Canadian. That speech was a vindication of our rights. It was an eloquent appeal in our favour, and wound up with the following words, which should be a lesson to our hon. friends:

I shall also take the liberty of counselling them not to ask for anything unreasonable, or for anything which will give their enemies an excuse for open and continued hostility towards them.

I think the above words uttered by that great friend of our race should have caused the hon. member for Jacques Cartier to reflect before introducing his motion. I think it is a very unwise policy on the part of the French Canadian to ask for privileges which it is not possible to grant, which are not guaranteed by the constitution, which could not be given effect to and which it is not reasonable to expect.

Mr. LEONARD. (Translation.) Why?