

Bill and tells the right hon. Prime Minister and the government that they shall not have his support on this question. What attitude has the Toronto 'Globe' taken on this question? What attitude has been taken by Mr. Stapleton Caldecott, a gentleman who a little time ago was nominated in the city of Toronto as the Liberal candidate, but declined the honour? It is a very doubtful honour to be nominated as a Liberal candidate in the city of Toronto. And, to go further, Mr. Robinette, the candidate for hon. gentleman opposite in Centre Toronto, only a few months ago, has denounced the stand taken by the government on this question. Still further, the candidate of hon. gentlemen opposite in North Toronto, Mayor Urquhart, has also denounced the position which the government has taken on this question. The hon. Minister of Justice says that the right hon. Prime Minister has not lost the respect of any of his former supporters. I say to hon. gentlemen opposite, let them bring on a general election to-day in Ontario and throughout the whole Dominion, and they will find whether or not he has lost the respect and support of the country. What an exhibition this government is to-day before the people of Canada. Ministers are in open mutiny. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), one of the most prominent members of the cabinet, the gentleman who has been named as the successor of the Prime Minister when the Prime Minister shall see fit to drop out of his position, is insulted. He is on his way to the city, but within two or three days of his arrival this Bill is brought down without his knowledge, consent or confirmation, and Sir, while it was manliness on the part of the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to resent the insult, apparently the Minister of Finance likes to lick the hand that smites him.

As to the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior he is to be congratulated on his position and on the attitude which he has taken. Insult could not have gone further, and hon. gentlemen opposite show their pique and resentment as soon as an hon. gentleman on that side of the House, be he a member of the House or Minister of the Crown, turns upon them. What is being said to-day of the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior? Look at the newspapers in the province of Quebec. Do they attribute to the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior the fact that he left the government by reason of an honesty of purpose and a regard for principle? Not at all, but he is reported as having been kicked out of the government by reason of scandals which it is said attach to him. Why does not the right hon. Prime Minister display a more noble and manly spirit towards his late minister? Why does he not stand up in his place and resent the imputations that are being cast upon the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior? Nay more, there

Mr. BENNETT.

are other hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. There is the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) whose name is associated with 'Le Nationaliste.'

Why does he not rise in his place and impeach the ex-Minister of the Interior for wrong-doing in connection with his department? The fact is that this government is all at sixes and sevens, knowing not where to turn or what move to make next. And as to the ministers from Ontario, with the two old men of the sea in the Senate Chamber and the two chloroformed ministers in this House—the Postmaster General and the Minister of Customs—both Oslerized because they are over 60, what can the Liberals of Ontario expect from them? What is the hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) doing on the present occasion? He was at a meeting in his own riding the other night, at which the government was denounced on all sides, but the member for Centre York was afraid either to condemn the government or approve of their policy. His cry was: Wait, wait; you will see something will happen. To-day we have an intimation of what is going to happen. I suppose it will be a repetition of the Remedial Bill experience in 1896, of members and ministers opposite giving their pledges that they are going to do this and that, and then doing the other thing. The debates on the Manitoba question show that the question of the Northwest schools was a live question in 1896, and although the Minister of Justice did not go so far as to pledge his word of honour that in the event of a Remedial Bill not being passed he would oppose any administration that might be formed by Mr. Laurier; yet there were other members who found their way into this chamber by giving pledges that when the question of the Northwest schools came up they would stand for legislation similar to the remedial legislation for Manitoba. There is fear and trembling among them to-day. The Solicitor General (Mr. Lemieux) came to parliament on one of these pledges.

Mr. LEMIEUX. No.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman did not?

Mr. LEMIEUX. No.

Mr. BENNETT. Perhaps I had better read it.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Read it.

Mr. BENNETT. I thought perhaps the Minister of Justice might invite me to read his.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I can refer the hon. gentleman to the four elections I have since had in my county.

Mr. FOSTER. How did you get in?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. In the last two my opponent lost his deposit.