

Mr. BERGERON. If my hon. friend will allow me, he was not there, but I was there all the time. He can ask his own friends in the county of Beauharnois. Never a word of that sort was said during the whole election.

Mr. TALBOT. The whole campaign in the town of Valleyfield was carried out on that very point.

Mr. MORIN. If the hon. member will allow me, I would like to correct a statement he made. He said that there was an agreement made between Mr. Landry, Mr. Chapais and Mr. Pelletier, and that even they would not live up to the agreement. To be sure, the agreement was made, but Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Chapais and Mr. Landry had nothing to do with it after it was signed. The people of Dorchester were very angry at that, and they said: It is not Pelletier, it is not Landry, it is not Chapais, who will choose the candidate for Dorchester—we will choose him ourselves; and I was chosen.

Mr. TALBOT. When the document to which I refer was signed and was published and sent abroad to every one of us, my hon. friend from Dorchester was not born politically; so he knows nothing about it. He came at the last minute, like mustard after dinner.

Mr. MORIN. I was not supposed to know what took place before I came into Canada.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT. There is one thing more I wish to say. My hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) has now gone out of the House. I wished to remind him of a certain speech that he made in the elections of 1900, to show him why the people of Quebec gave the verdict they then gave. In the county of Kamouraska, at St. Pascal, six or seven of these gentlemen came one day, and among them the member for Beauharnois. When speaking he went so far as to treat the Liberals like animals being in a trough, and so deep in the trough that their horns got caught and they could not get out. That is the way he treated the Liberals of Quebec in county after county. Is it any wonder to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberals rebelled against such treatment, and they returned the right hon. gentleman to power with such a large majority? Sir, I hope this is the last time we shall hear the episcopacy and priesthood of Quebec dragged into discussions of this kind. After all, we were only fighting for our political freedom. Since the Papal ablegate came to this country, and even since Rome has been directly represented in Canada, we have had peace in the province of Quebec, and perfect liberty. to vote just as we pleased, and we have had no more trouble.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). I have a few words to say, even at this late hour.

The leader of the opposition is supposed by some hon. gentlemen to have made an apology here this evening. I want to say that I did not so understand him; because if there is one thing in the leader of the opposition of which I am proud, it is that he is always so guarded in anything he says that it is unnecessary for him to offer any apology to the House afterwards. Now it has been said to-night that, owing to the presence of the Papal ablegate in the province of Quebec, the citizens of that province are enjoying political liberty. I want to say as representing an Ontario constituency that I am very glad to know that the Papal ablegate is having such a good influence in the province of Quebec. I am not going to charge the people of Quebec with being bigots because they cannot agree among themselves, and because they require the presence of a Papal ablegate in order that they may enjoy political liberty. I hope they may long continue to enjoy that liberty. But I wish to say that I entertain different views from the majority of the people of the province of Quebec, though I am glad to say that my father was born in the city of Quebec, and I have a friendly feeling for that province. But I differ from a large number of my friends from that province. I am a Protestant, and I have no hesitation in saying it; and when I say that I do not think that I am incurring the contempt of any hon. gentleman from Quebec. Now the belief of Protestants, and of the great majority of the electors I represent, is this: We say that in the administration of state affairs in this country the government has no right to act as I hold the First Minister has done in this particular instance. Will any man say that I am a bigot because I make this declaration? That is my right, that is my privilege. I want to say in making that statement that I can place my finger on dozens of supporters of the government who entertain the same views, and so does the large bulk of the constituents who elected them.

I want to point out to the right hon. gentleman that at the last Dominion election the gentlemen who form his cabinet were elected on the principle of representative government. Now as a Protestant my faith teaches me to find fault with the right hon. gentleman for refusing, or at all events for neglecting, to consult with the representatives of the people who were in his cabinet, the ministers of the Crown, on this important and vital question, namely, the educational clauses of this Bill. The leader of the opposition and other members on this side of the House, have asked a straight and practical question, that is of vital moment to me as a Protestant, and of vital moment to the people I represent, who are largely Protestants; the right hon. gentleman has been asked the question calmly and squarely, whether or not he had con-