

Mr. FITZPATRICK. What I said to-night was said for a purpose, and said deliberately—

Mr. FOSTER. And untruthfully.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I do not think the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) ought to say 'untruthfully.'

Mr. FOSTER. Let me explain.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FOSTER. I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) if he will allow me to explain. If ever I heard anything plainly and distinctly—and now, if I am wrong, I will take it back—it was the statement made by the Minister of Justice that these petitions emanated from hon. gentlemen on this side of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman did not state that, then, my ears deceived me. But, I most certainly, have pretty sharp ears.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not want to get into any altercation with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick)—

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I think I am showing a great deal of good temper about this matter.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If the hon. gentleman objects—

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I do not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN—I will take my seat at once.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I do not object.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is a personal matter, and it seems to me it is better to thrash these things out on the spot than have any ill-feeling on the matter afterwards. I distinctly say, that, so far as my ears could gather the words of the hon. gentleman, spoken distinctly and with a great deal of passion and earnestness, they were that these petitions to which he referred, and one which he said he held in his hands, emanated from this side, and he pointed to this side of the House. I ask him to name to this House and this country the hon. gentleman on this side from whom these petitions emanated, or else to withdraw the statement.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I did not make the statement that the petitions emanated from any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House. I did make the statement that they emanated from the other side—

Mr. LENNOX. The hon. gentleman said they emanated from the same source as the petitions from the province of Ontario.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is pretty badly in—

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It is because I am so badly in that my hon. friends opposite ought to be more generous. It seems to me not quite fair that I should have to answer four or five at a time. When it is realized that I am endeavouring to come after the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) it seems to me that I ought to have the sympathy of every member of this House.

Mr. FOSTER. You have mine.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I am entitled to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Foster's) sympathy, because my task is no easy one. I quite understand that. Now, leaving that question aside for the moment I want to be precise in the position I take, I want to be quite sincere about this, for it is a serious matter. I hold the Conservative party responsible for the fact that two sets of petitions are being circulated in this country at present—one addressed to the people of Ontario for the purpose of creating prejudice in their minds against this Bill and the other addressed to the people of Quebec for a like purpose. My hon. friend the member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) charged us with not having consulted the people of the Northwest who are most concerned in this Bill. I say, and I say it deliberately, that an attempt is being made to prejudice the people of Ontario against this Bill. And for what reason forsooth? Because they are jealous that a Catholic happens to be connected with it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Read the Toronto 'Telegram' and you will find the proof of what I say. But, Mr. Speaker, it is said that this Bill was introduced into this House without any previous conference or consultation with the representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories who are most concerned. Let me say that every line of this Bill was settled after previous conference with the people representing the Northwest Territories, with the single exception of the educational clause—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I rather like to hear my hon. friends interrupt me. There must be some reason for it. When I rose in fear and trembling to follow the Goliath of the opposition, I did not expect so much success. As far back as 1902, Mr. Speaker, a Bill was prepared by the executive of the Northwest Territories in anticipation of that autonomy which is now about to be granted. They prepared for the consideration of this