

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I was asking his permission.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Certainly.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not have to ask the permission of any other hon. gentleman. I would like to know whether or not that was not the position in 1893 and 1894 when the late Mr. Dalton McCarthy and Mr. Tarte were doing exactly the same thing in regard to the Conservative administration? That was all right.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. Dalton McCarthy is dead. Peace to his ashes. Mr. McCarthy was a great lawyer, he was a great Canadian and I dare say that if Mr. McCarthy were living to-day he might not be with my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) even on this question. Mr. McCarthy, after 1896, joined the ranks of the Liberal party and sat with us on this side of the House. I have heard Mr. McCarthy himself say that he had learned a good deal since he had been associated with the French Canadians. I say that if Mr. McCarthy were living to-day he would certainly not have taken the stand which has been taken by some hon. gentlemen opposite. But, I was speaking of the position occupied by the Liberal members of this House coming from the province of Quebec. Which are the papers in the province of Quebec which, since the beginning of this campaign, have been trying to arouse the passions and prejudices of the people although with no success? My hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) knows 'L'Evenement,' the chief Conservative organ of Quebec. When my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) spoke on the second reading of the Bill he quoted some of the articles which had been published by 'L'Evenement.' I appeal to my hon. friends who belong to the Protestant faith in the province of Quebec to say if it is not a fact that my right hon. friend the leader of the government is represented by the papers friendly to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition as a traitor to his race, to his faith and to his ancestors. For what reason?—because forsooth, my right hon. friend has taken the right stand in the present conflict. He has not been with the extremists. In medio stat virtus. He has stood firmly on the rock of constitution and he has acted in that spirit of conciliation, toleration and liberality which has always animated Liberals in every part of the world. Sir, my hon. friend from Labelle compared the French Liberals with the tribes of India. He said that we were accepting crumbs which the Bengalese and the men from the Punjaub would not accept. On the contrary, Sir, we recognize the happy position which

Mr. LEMIEUX.

the French Canadians occupy in this country at the present hour. Since 1840 the French Canadians, not only in the province of Quebec, but in the whole Dominion have attained, it seems to me, a very exalted position. Sir, I would call upon my hon. friend to look in front of him and see who occupies the first position in this country. Who was selected to occupy that position, under what circumstances and by whom? By the English-speaking Liberals. And under what circumstances and by whom? One of our own, and by the English-speaking Liberals. And under what circumstances? Was it when the province of Quebec was united in favour of the Liberal party? Was it not when we were in a hopeless minority against the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite? Sir, what is our status in the confederation? I will not speak of yesterday; I will speak of to-day's. My hon. friend from East Grey referred to the Yukon Territory. Who is the Chief Justice in the Yukon Territory? Is it Mr. Justice Dugas, a French Canadian? Who is the Lieutenant Governor of the province of British Columbia, if not Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière? Who is the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories, if not my friend Mr. Forget? Who is the Chief Justice appointed at the request of the member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) in the province of Manitoba, if not Chief Justice Dubuc, a French Canadian? Who is the Chief Justice of Canada? Is it not a French Canadian? And, Sir, coming to the province of Ontario, who occupies at the present time the proud position of Minister of Public Works in the Ontario government? I am happy to say that the great Conservative party paid a compliment to the large French minority in the province by appointing Hon. Dr. Rheame from the county of Essex. In Ottawa I think my co-religionists and my fellow-countrymen occupy a proud position, and I deny in toto the statement made by my hon. friend that the French Canadian Liberals have no pride and no courage. The man who has courage is not the one who, through his ability and eloquence, will fan the passions and irritate the prejudices of the people, and say to his fellow-countrymen: 'You are not treated as white men, you are treated as slaves, you are entitled to a loaf of bread and get only half a loaf. You should resist and revolt.' No, Sir, the man of courage and the true patriot is the man who tells his fellow-countrymen: We are in the minority, we live in a country where there are two predominating races and two predominating religions, and we must meet like friends and like men. If there is on the other side, of the ocean an entente cordiale there must also be on this side an entente cordiale. We cannot expect to have and obtain everything, we must make concessions. My hon. friend—no one more than he—knows what is the