

bers of this House, of representatives of a great party, and representatives of a great province such as the province of Ontario, to come here and by means of innuendoes and insinuations and accusations which they have not the courage to make openly from their seats in parliament, to try and excite religious strife. I say they dare not make these openly because when you pin them down to the crucial point, they say: Oh yes, you are ruled by the Pope, and you are under French domination, but what we are ready to discuss in this House is provincial rights and constitutional principles. They are prepared to lead the people of Ontario to vote for provincial rights, but to do so animated by anti-Popish, anti-French feelings.

With reference to the request made by the Catholic members of the Liberal party to the Pope for the nomination of a Papal ablegate, I have no shame in saying that I have taken my share in that action; I have signed the document, and I have no shame either as a French Canadian, a Catholic, a British subject, or a member of this House, for so doing. Sir, knowing and appreciating as I do the liberty I enjoy as a British subject, under the British Crown, I was proud to ask the highest moral authority of the church to which I belong to send here a Papal ablegate who would see that good and proper relations existed between the clergy and laity of Quebec, to see that relations between the clergy and laity would be such that there would not be any cause of misunderstanding such as those which occurred at certain times in the past. The cause which induced the Liberal Catholic members of this House to seek the appointment of an ablegate here was that we could not see eye to eye with a certain part of our clergy as to the right way of dealing with certain political questions. And, Sir, in that respect I want to remind the House of the words of one of the greatest Protestant writers and philosophers of the nineteenth century, who has said that the Catholic church was a great school of respect. Appealing to the head of the church, we found justice, enlightenment, breadth of view and respect for the rights of the people. At one time or another there was trouble between the clergy and people of Quebec. Hon. gentlemen opposite are always talking about the priest-ridden people of Quebec, about the clerical domination under which the poor habitant is resting; but, Sir, do you know that we never stood from our clergy the kind of sermons and political interference that has been going on for the last month in Ontario? For what reason did we ask the Pope to send an ablegate out here? Exactly to prevent what is going on now in the province of Ontario. And this was not the first time that an ablegate was sent to Canada. The same thing was done in 1876 and later on in the 80's. But how was it in

those days? The arch-defenders of British citizenship and of loyalty to Protestantism never raised their voices against the relations which existed between the Catholics of the province of Quebec and the Pope. Why? Because of political reasons; because in those days the people of Quebec and the majority of the Catholic people kept them in the fats of office. Sir, I am sorry to see that a question which is put on this high ground of national feeling and fidelity to religious principle must after all be brought to that very low placed feeling of a thirst for office. These gentlemen, having found that their fiscal policy was of no influence with the people, that the country had no confidence in them, thought that there was in this country a sufficient number of people who would still believe in the old tales about the Gunpowder Plot, the Guy Fawkes conspiracy, and other matters that were taught 150 years ago, but which the poorest schoolmaster in England would be ashamed of mentioning, except possibly as the remnant of a legend which existed in the times of credulity in that country. That may appear to be exaggerated. But not later than a few days ago I read in a newspaper that proposes to enlighten the people of Canada, a statement to the effect that the same conspiracy, the same dark and sinister organization and the same powerful people who are now trying to shackle the people of the west, that same power of the province of Quebec, headed by the hierarchy that was trying to prevent the free people of the west from enjoying their liberty, could be related to the same man, to the same power and the same influences that brought about the Gunpowder conspiracy! I have seen that statement printed in the columns of either the 'News' or the 'World,' because these two papers constitute a pair, and I cannot say which is the silliest. But, Sir, even when I read such things, printed in the twentieth century, in leading newspapers, published in a city like Toronto, and in a province like Ontario, I refuse to believe that you would find a majority of the people of Ontario who would believe such silly talk. I cannot believe it, and I must say that the member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean), in the allusions he has made to-day, just as in the cartoons which are published every day in his newspaper, is simply putting on his province the greatest slur that could be cast on it by any man. Sir, if I would stand up in this House and say that the province of Ontario is filled with a population of ignorant people, with a drown-trodden people under the control of the Methodist ministers, by which you could organize any kind of conspiracy to deprive the Catholic church of their power, to unthroned the Pope and prevent the priests of the province of Quebec from saying mass, I would not be saying more silly things than you read every day in three or four columns of the 'World'

Mr. BOURASSA.