

and denouncing such an infamous policy. And at a moment like this, when such appeals are being made to the worst passions of the people, the leaders of great parties who have not the courage to stand up against this current of opinion and check the fanaticism of their partisans, are as responsible as if they were the authors of them. Let the hon. the leader of the opposition consult some of his best and most enlightened friends. Let him have a conversation upon this question—I will not say with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) or the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), who have shown by their speeches that they had the courage to separate from their party upon a question like this and stand for truth and justice and fair-play—but I will say to the leader of the opposition: let him consult the most enlightened Protestant members of his party, those men who have been educated in the political school of the late Sir John Macdonald, and ask them if the Conservative party is following a wise and a good course in allowing itself to be dragged down to such depths of political infamy, as it is being dragged into by the Toronto 'News' and the Toronto 'World,' and the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and the member for South York and the member for Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes). These gentlemen may meet with some success for a little while; but as a French Canadian, who has gone time and again into the province of Ontario, I have too much respect for the good people of that province to think that even if they may get excited a little while by such wild appeals, they will stand for any such policy. The member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) has defied any member of the government to go and meet him on the public platform in the province of Ontario. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am ready to accept that challenge. I am ready to meet the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) or the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) or even the hon. and gallant member for Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes) even with his man Turpin behind him—I am ready to go and discuss the issue with these gentlemen before any audience in the province of Ontario. I do not say that I would gather votes; but I say that if any man in this House, whether French or English-speaking, Protestant or Catholic, Liberal or Conservative, would go and appeal to the common sense and spirit of fair-play of the people of Ontario he would, if not gain votes, at least get a good hearing. And I do not hesitate to say that in the long run, when the heat of passion had subsided, he might even ask for some votes on such a ground.

As regards the propriety and the advisability of the presence of a Papal delegate in this country, I need not speak at length. I need only mention, as I have done, that all governments of civilized nations entertain

direct official relations with the Pope. My hon. friend the Postmaster General has said that this government had nothing to do with the appointment of the Papal delegate. As a matter of fact that is perfectly true. But even if the government of Canada had requested the Pope to send a delegate to this country, would that be a greater sin than is committed by other governments at Washington, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna? Even the present anti-clerical French government at Paris, though the official relations have been broken off, keep relations with an unofficial representative of the Holy See.

An hon. MEMBER. And in London.

Mr. BOURASSA. No, I do not think there is an official ablegate in London. But I understand there is an accredited representative of His Holiness there who keeps up relations between the British government and the head of the church. But the talents of the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) have been wasted. He should have gone to the old country some years ago, when, through the representative of the British government in Rome—not the representative accredited to the King of Italy but the representative accredited to the Pope—the British government entered into negotiations with His Holiness in order to bring about a better understanding between the Irish party and the government of England. Even in that small section of the British empire from which, if I know anything of their origin, my hon. friends from South York and Victoria and Haliburton come, there arose no cry of dissent to that proceeding. Even the Ulster Orangemen were not prepared to find any fault if, through the pacifying influence of His Holiness, the Irish people could be brought to a better understanding with the King of England. My hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) at the beginning of the session made a plea for greater autonomy for Canada. Sir, the people of Canada would not be worthy of greater autonomy if one great political party of this country, which once held the reins of the government for years and which may again occupy office, has no better understanding of what constitutes the dignity of a nation, no better appreciation of the feelings of two millions of their fellow-citizens, and no better sense of the manner in which a respectable government should conduct the business of a self-reliant and self-respecting people, especially in their relations with foreign powers. And if the government of the Pope was for a time a foreign government from a temporal point of view, it is to-day no longer a temporal government but only a high moral government, guiding the spiritual affairs of 300,000,000 of human beings, among which are 12,000,000 respectable, law-abiding British subjects, including 2,000,000 Canadians of different origins. It is unworthy of mem-