

Justice had comported himself throughout his lifetime and particularly prior to his advent to this House as a perfect har-binger of peace, and that he had gone from one end of the country to the other in order to pacify and alleviate the feelings of those who might have been influenced by religious prejudices. One would have supposed, at least from the strong statements he has made to-night, that the hon. Minister of Justice would be the last man who would desire to look back upon the recent history of this country. There was a general election in 1896 and it was found by hon. gentlemen opposite to be a matter of life and death. From 1878 down to that time they had attempted time and again on different issues to achieve office, but always with the same result that they had been repulsed by the electors. Unfortunately, perhaps, for the peace of the country and for the peace of the Conservative party, a question similar to the present one loomed up on the political horizon. The hon. Minister of Justice went down through the province of Quebec and his complaint against the Tupper government on that occasion was that the Tupper government had been recreant to the cause of the Roman Catholic part of the population and he said that if he went to Ottawa he would go there—to be a Liberal?—No, not a Liberal. To be a Conservative?—No, not a Conservative, but that if elected he would only support the party which would support a Remedial Bill. I challenge the hon. minister to-night to deny that statement.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. My hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) used that quotation with very much more force before, and I think I can stand a repetition by my hon. friend from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett)).

Mr. BENNETT. Well, the hon. gentleman may affect that, but I challenge him to deny the statement that when he went into the province of Quebec and was elected for the county of Quebec he did not think it was wrong on his part to pledge himself to the hilt to the bishop of the diocese, that if he was elected to a seat in this House he would not be a Conservative, not a Liberal, but he would be a Remedial Bill man, first, last and always. That was the pledge the hon. gentleman made and the pledge upon which he was returned by the electors of that riding. How did the hon. gentleman redeem his pledge? He came into this House, he secured or was appointed to the position of Solicitor General, and after the pledge that he had made to his party and the pledge that he had made to his electors that Remedial Bill was thrown to the winds and nothing further was heard of it. But, the day has come when the hon. gentleman has to meet his overdue note. That is what it is. The hon. gentleman has found out

that he cannot hoodwink the people of the county of Quebec any longer. Living as he is living, not on what should be the ground work of statesmanship, but on religious fanaticism—and that is what he is living on in the province of Quebec,—he finds that he is brought face to face with the question of this Northwest school Bill and he is bound to throw in his lot on the side of the church, that is why the hon. gentleman is to-day posing as the advocate of these people in the Northwest Territories. But, I tell the hon. Minister of Justice that in the province of Ontario and in every province of this Dominion there would be little religious prejudice were it not for fire brands of the stamp of the hon. Minister of Justice.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It does not make any difference.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) will withdraw that remark, I hope.

Mr. BENNETT. No, I am not sure that the hon. Minister of Justice has been a flaming torch in Quebec nor has he been a flaming torch perhaps from Quebec on the ministerial side because to-day the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) announced that he was going to back down from his position. The hon. minister is put in this position that after all these strong pledges and promises which have been given, he and the right hon. Prime Minister are to-day endeavouring to cover their retreat. I had supposed that the hon. Minister of Justice would have denied the charge that he had made a pledge to support a Remedial Bill, but as nothing has been denied he stands confessed to the new members of the House at least as having secured his election in the county of Quebec by making a promise and a pledge to the bishop of the diocese and to the electors of that riding that if he came here as their representative, and that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier—then plain Mr. Laurier—became premier, he, the Minister of Justice, would vote against him unless he produced and formulated a Remedial Bill. Yet, here the hon. Minister of Justice sits, his pledge made to the people unredeemed and unfulfilled, he continues in the emoluments of his office and being confronted with this overdue note he is endeavouring to get even with his pledge. The hon. Minister of Justice talks about religious prejudice in the province of Ontario. Who is stirring up religious prejudice in the province of Ontario to-day? Who is stirring it up in this House to-day? Not one word is said from this side of the House on this question, but, when the Bill is introduced one of the supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. L. G. McCarthy) rises up on his feet, denounces the