

An hon. MEMBER. The Canadian Pacific Railway law, for instance.

Mr. OSLER. The Canadian Pacific Railway and anything that is bad about it. The people of Canada can stand anything, but they cannot stand—

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Having the Tories in opposition; that is the worst crime Canada has committed yet.

Mr. OSLER. If the Postmaster General will cast his mind and his eye back to that pathetic appeal which the Minister of Finance made to persuade himself that he was in favour of this Bill, he will find that the Minister of Finance looked down at his venerable chief, and he pictured the disaster that would overtake the country if Sir Wilfrid Laurier were to resign. Great Heavens; there would not be another immigrant come to this country, we would be bankrupt, we would be a laughing stock. Well, if the Prime Minister resigned I think the country would be fairly resigned also. The Minister of Finance pictured what would happen if the Prime Minister would resign and the woeful disaster that would follow. I venture to say that consols would not fall one-eighth of a cent if the Prime Minister resigned. I venture to say that not one immigrant less would come into this country this year, and that the business of the country would go on and continue to be quite as prosperous as it is. The Prime Minister is being lauded as the man of conciliation. I say that in the manner in which he has introduced this Bill he has done more to cause racial and religious strife in this country than all his previous life of conciliation could counteract; and when his biography is written, instead of his epitaph being conciliation, as the Minister of Agriculture suggested, it will be the reverse. In this one act, be it as honest, as straight, as simple in intention as it is claimed to be, yet, from the fact that he consulted outsiders and ignored the men who ought to have been consulted, he has brought about a state of things in Canada the effects of which not one man in this House will live to see wiped out.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to say one or two words with regard to the remarks made by the hon. Minister of Customs with reference to myself. In the first place, it does seem to be a very considerable lowering of the dignity of parliament for a minister of the Crown to stand up in this House and make such an extraordinary exhibition of himself as the Minister of Customs has made this evening. I hesitate to apply words to the conduct or the hon. gentleman, because I am afraid that I might transgress the rules of the parliamentary decorum.

Mr. PATERSON. Don't be afraid.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Oh, I am not afraid of the hon. gentleman. I have never ob-

served anything very alarming about him, although he has a very loud voice. He is comparatively harmless. He is perhaps not as wise as the serpent, but after all he is as harmless as the dove. He has suggested as plainly as he could that I am in some way endeavouring to foment religious strife in this country—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentlemen on the other side say hear, hear. I want any one of those hon. gentlemen, when he comes to address this House to-night or on any future occasion, to point to one single word of mine during the progress of this debate which he can call in question in that regard. I am perfectly ready to be judged by my utterances; but I do not want general statements of that kind applauded by men who apparently do not know that of which they speak. I have never said any word in this House or in this country which would suggest that any man, on account of his race or religion, should not have the right to be Prime Minister of Canada. On the contrary, many times, in portions of this country where there was no man of the French race or who understood the French language, I have said, with regard to my right hon. friend who leads this House, that I saw no good reason why his fellow citizens of the province of Quebec should not entertain for him the very highest possible admiration as a distinguished public man of their own race; and I challenge the production of any word I ever uttered such as the hon. Minister of Customs has endeavoured to-night to fasten upon me. Fomenting discord!—why, there was more in the speech of the hon. Minister of Customs to-night to foment race cries and religious discord than anything I have heard in this House since this debate began, and in his heart he knows it. And he knows the intent with which he quoted from the Hamilton 'Spectator'; no one knows it better than himself. He did it with a motive, and that motive is unworthy of any member of this House, and especially unworthy of any man who strives to pose as the hon. Minister of Customs has done in this House ever since I have been a member of it.

Mr. PATERSON. Did not the hon. gentleman quote 'Le Soleil'?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did quote 'Le Soleil,' and I attached the responsibility of its utterances to the Prime Minister, because I knew that that paper was published by responsible men, and that those responsible men had said that it was under the control and direction of the Prime Minister.

Mr. PATERSON. Is the Hamilton 'Spectator' not controlled by responsible men?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I will come to the Hamilton 'Spectator' in a moment. Further