

friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), I do not know who he means. But if he wants to know who I consider are the fanatics, they are the members who are opposing every clause in the Bill that will give any rights to the Catholic minority in the Northwest.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am quoting from a newspaper supporting my hon. friend.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. I thought he was quoting from a Conservative paper in the city of Quebec.

Mr. TAYLOR (reading):

Monseigneur Sbarretti asked Sir Wilfrid what the new proposition would be like. Sir Wilfrid presented it to His Excellency at a later interview, stating that 'this is what they impose upon me.' The delegate thought the original proposition could be carried, as Sir Wilfrid had a majority of 70. Sir Wilfrid, however, declared to the contrary. Something in different language had to be presented in order to get it through. Sir Wilfrid then told Monseigneur Sbarretti that the case was in his hands. Whatever he ordered he (Sir Wilfrid) would do. If the delegate wanted the matter fought out 'I will get a dissolution and will ask the people to pronounce between me and the fanatics.' 'Only,' added Sir Wilfrid, 'it must be borne in mind that if I am beaten there will be no Catholic in the government that will succeed me.'

That is where the Finance Minister and the ex-Minister of the Interior got their information, they were quoting the statement of the Prime Minister to the Papal ablegate, that if he were beaten there could be no government formed with a Catholic in it.

Monseigneur Sbarretti tried to convince Sir Wilfrid that the situation was not nearly so grave. But in the end the amended clause was adopted.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, I represent a constituency containing some 3,500 Roman Catholics, and on their behalf, and on behalf of the French and Irish Catholics of this Dominion, I repudiate any such statement as that made by the Minister of Finance and the ex-Minister of the Interior.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend had better go to a Roman Catholic; let him get the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) to repudiate it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I think the member for Jacques Cartier will repudiate it.

Mr. FIELDING. No he won't.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the Roman Catholics come to a government and say: We want legislation, whether it be constitutional or not, it makes no difference to us; if we don't get that, no government can be formed in this country with a Roman Catholic in it—

Mr. FIELDING. Will my hon. friend permit me a word? I made no such statement. I said that if the Prime Minister were oblig-

ed to retire on this particular question the government that would be formed could not be composed of Catholics and Protestants, because they could not agree.

Mr. TAYLOR. I read the hon. gentleman's statement word for word, and what he has just said agrees with it.

Mr. FIELDING. The hon. gentleman read it correctly; I am not objecting to his reading, but I am objecting to his interpretation of it afterwards.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is the language the hon. gentleman used. He asks me to go to the member for Jacques Cartier and get him to repudiate that statement. I say there is not an Orangeman in this country who would make any such statement as that. I believe the Catholics of this country are just as loyal and ready to uphold the government of this country as any other class of the community, and they will not say that if they cannot get what they want, whether it is constitutional or not, they will take no part in the government of this country.

Mr. FIELDING. Nobody said that.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend said that if the Prime Minister was driven from power on this question, notwithstanding the fact that the Bill which the Prime Minister brought down was unconstitutional, that would be the result. He balked for two or three weeks until the right hon. leader of the government told him that he would lose his job, that a Protestant government would have to be formed, that there would not be a Catholic in it and the result was that the hon. Finance Minister swallowed that statement and made the speech a portion of which I have just quoted. I cannot believe that such a crisis is before the country and that these two hon. gentlemen, the Minister of Finance and the ex-Minister of the Interior, swallowed themselves as they did in their speeches for the sake of peace. I think the man on the street will say the same. Let me read a quotation from a speech made by the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) about what I have just been saying and which will be found in 'Hansard,' 30th March, 1897, page 194:

The state has nothing to fear, but everything to hope from the existence of the Catholic church in their midst. She has everything to hope and nothing to fear, not only as regards her independence and constitutional liberty, but as regards the liberty of political parties, as well, to none of which does the church or the Pope desire that Catholics should bind themselves. The church holds herself on a higher plane and looks only to the common good, to the reign of truth, justice and peace.

That statement is made in the speech of the hon. Minister of Justice, 'Hansard,' 30th March, 1897, page 194. In the face of that statement made by the Minister of Justice referring to the Catholic church, of which he is an honoured member, that that is the