

friends. It tells us that even the Ministers of the Crown are hypnotized by Ottawa society. It says that the great social influence is Conservative, and its effect is such that one Minister after another has had to lower his flag before it. If that influence is so benumbing and hypnotizing on the Ministers, what must it not be on a wild bronco, full of fire, like my hon. friend the member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). Or take my hon. friend from East Assinibola (Mr. Douglas). Why, my hon. friend was, of course, partly by circumstances and partly by his profession, kept away all his life from society, and we know very well that, when a thing is novel, its impression is far greater. I understand that even Ministers of the Crown who, when west, would not for any consideration have entered a dancing room, or come within the sound of a dancing fiddle, have, some of them, since arriving in Ottawa, taken lessons of a dancing-master, and have become, not merely political leaders, but leaders in the terpsichorean chorus, and gracefully bow and salute in the minuet.

This is what my hon. friend from Lisgar is reported in his own paper as having said:

The great difficulty members had to contend against at Ottawa was that they were not consulted. The Government made up its mind, and brought down its measures, and members as a rule had either to swallow the entire programme or to go into opposition. This policy very often tended to compromise the position of members.

Well, I have consolation in store for my hon. friend. He misunderstands his own leader. He has not read all that his leader has said. On the 12th of October last, speaking at the glorification of Mr. Tarte at the Tarte Club, at the same time that he was presented with the Tarte medal, of which a picture appeared in "La Patrie"—the Tarte medal, with the picture of Israel Tarte on it, hanging side by side with the Cobden medal and the star which emblazoned his consistent and proud bosom—my hon. friend's leader said—and I cite this to show my hon. friend that he need not swallow all the programme of the Government:

The Liberal party does not require of its members a blind support of any measure which seems good to its leaders.

So that I bring my hon. friend some consolation. He will be able now to go back to his constituents and tell them that one of those obscurantist Tories, on the other side of the House, who comes from the west, called his attention to certain words of his right hon. leader which are an emblazonment of liberty for the Liberals behind him. My hon. friend will not, therefore, feel bound to swallow the whole programme of the Government; he will not feel bound to swallow the whole elephant, and do mortal injury to his political digestion; he will not be forced to say, with Hosea Bigelow:

A marcfil Providence fashioned us holler  
O' purpose that we might our principles swaller.

I have something further.

Mr. OLIVER. I rise to a question of privilege. I wish to state to the House that the hon. gentleman has distinctly and entirely misquoted my remarks in "Hansard."

Mr. DAVIN. I will send for the "Hansard" of the second session of 1896, and hope to be able to show the hon. gentleman that I have not misquoted him, but that I have given him full credit for what he said. If I have done otherwise, I shall make the 'amende honorable' for I have, for convenience, taken a newspaper report professing to be verbatim.

I want to call the attention of my hon. friend who is now leading the House (Sir Richard Cartwright)—and I am glad to see him leading it, because he leads it with grace and dignity—I want to call his attention to what he said in 1895:

This is not a case for half measures. You have in the fate of the Democratic party of the United States a warning and an example of the doom which will overtake any party that palters with its convictions, and after having placed itself at the head of a great popular movement, will offer the people a stone instead of bread.

That is the language which he used, when speaking of the Liberal policy with regard to the tariff.

These are weighty words, and they seem to be prophetic as well as weighty, for already the indignation of this people of Canada, this outraged and betrayed people is rising against a Government that does not regard its promises, its programme or its professions. What I said in 1896 could be said with still more truth now, the pallor of death is glooming upon the face of that moribund Ministry.

I was walking in the city of Hull the other day. I found that they were changing the names of the streets there, and, in this re-baptising of streets, they call one Avenue Laurier. I thought I would have the glory and pride of walking down this new-named street. While passing along it I began to think how, when the late Emperor Napoleon came into power, they changed the names of the streets in Paris, substituting for names that rang with republicanism those that reminded passers-by of Napoleon and Louis Napoleon. And I remember when I went through those streets of Paris in the autumn of 1870, the names redolent of the coup d'Etat were being torn down and names substituted that rang of the déchéance. I went along this street in Hull called the Avenue Laurier, and do you know whither it led? I hope it will not be injurious to your health, Mr. Speaker, or to the health of the Liberals, it led—'absit omen'—to a graveyard.