

Mr. PAQUET (Translation): The charge is a most serious one.

Mr. LAFORUNE (Translation): Most serious, I admit it; but I do, nevertheless, declare that, in many cases, French Canadians are turned out of doors and that their places are given, a few days later, to your Englishmen just landed from London. The very thing happened in a shell factory in my own village; these French Canadians were told: "Why don't you enlist? Why don't you go and help the Empire?" They were thus forced to sacrifice themselves and to give up all they held most dear, in order to save the Empire.

Mr. Speaker, I am of the opinion of the learned member for L'Islet, when he stated in his eloquent and so moderate speech—that if recruiting had been conducted in a sensible way in the province of Quebec, it would have been most successful. Men have been sent to do recruiting in Montreal who certainly were not qualified for such positions, men who could not speak a word of French. Was that the right means to take if you wanted to induce our Canadians to enlist? In the province of Quebec, although the English population is very small, we employ on our police force only men who can speak both languages and my hon. friend from St. Mary's (Mr. Martin) who is also mayor of Montreal, and whom I see in his seat, can confirm this assertion. In the face of these facts, I am actually surprised that the French Canadians have enlisted in such large numbers.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for L'Islet has done justice to his compatriots of Quebec, when he stated that if recruiting in Quebec had not given the expected results, it was not the fault of the French Canadians themselves, but that it was rather on account of the methods which have been adopted.

Before I take my seat, you will permit me a final observation. Is it true, as have declared several hon. members on the other side, that the French Canadians have not done their duty? To those hon. gentlemen, I will say: You are mistaken. The French Canadians have never shirked their duty, as have said and repeated several members on this side of the House. I say that it is not among the French Canadians you will find cowards and timorous men. Besides, we have proved it before today, fear finds no place with us. When struggles have been started for what the Canadian holds most sacred; his country, his language, his religion or his schools, you have seen all these noble

[Mr. Lafortune.]

hearts ready to defend those rights. I will even go further, I will say that all far-reaching reforms have originated in Quebec; her citizens have always taken a hand in forwarding great movements.

When we see in the province of Ontario that the French language is shackled, and by those who cast aspersions on us, who abuse us for not doing enough for the Empire, I may answer to these Ontario people: Deal fairly with us, if you wish us to help you. Do justice to the French Canadians, to those who speak French over there. Try, if you dare, to blot out the French words which are on His Majesty's coat of arms: "Honi soit qui mal y pense." Try it then, and see if you can replace them by English words. French is the language of the great nations; French is the language in which are drafted all important social and political documents. You cannot, I say, replace those words.

It is no fault of mine, if you do not understand our mentality; it is not my fault if you do not understand what we are.

When I see Quebec men, like the honourable Mr. Cochrane, like the honourable Mr. Rogers, also from Quebec, who allow us to be insulted by the men of Ontario, I say to them: You do not love your province, you are not equal to your task, you who have risen from the ranks of the province of Quebec. I understand that, with you, politics smothers your better feelings. As for me, as long as I have a seat in this House, I shall never be afraid to say to the men of Ontario, I will never be afraid to say to all who are good enough to listen to me, that the men of Quebec are just as good as the men of Ontario.

Hon. C. J. DOHERTY (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend from Montcalm (Mr. Lafortune), who has showered me with some compliments, and who made some observations with regard to me not quite so complimentary, will pardon me if I do not undertake to take up seriatim the different matters which he has dealt with in his somewhat prolonged address. The question with which we are concerned presents itself to my mind from a very different point of view from that from which the hon. gentleman evidently looks at it. I may have occasion to refer, as I proceed, to one or two of the subjects to which he has adverted, but he will forgive me if, before doing that, I say something that seems to me vital to be said in connection with the consideration of this very momentous question. More than one hon. gentleman in this House