

Privilege—Mr. Pouliot

layman at the head of the health of animals branch? That is what we would like to know. If such is the case, I do not believe the people of western Canada will stand for it.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I made it as clear as I possibly could, so far as my command of simple English goes, that the report which I read in one of the western papers—I am not sure whether it was the Winnipeg Free Press or not—stated that the specialists at the head of the divisions of the branch and the head of the branch itself were to be replaced by laymen. Nothing could be more ridiculous than such a statement, so far as any of the work or plans of the Department of Agriculture are concerned. What I did say was this, that the health of animals branch has been under a layman in the person of the deputy minister and the minister for ten or twelve years, and that the veterinary director general never had a free hand without the direction of the minister as to what work he should undertake. But no person ever considered having a layman do the work of a scientific man.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Monday, April 3, 1933

The house met at three o'clock.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, *Le Journal of Quebec*, on March 31, 1933, published the following article:

Mr. Bennett disapproves of all attacks on priests.

The extreme liberalism of Mr. Pouliot does not meet with the approval of the Prime Minister—a typical incident.

Ottawa, March 31.—(From the correspondent of *Le Journal*).—Mr. Bennett does not intend to allow Catholic priests to be attacked with impunity in the house. Mr. J. F. Pouliot, Liberal member for Témiscouata, was made aware of this fact at Monday's sitting, March 20.

Mr. Pouliot was criticizing, unreservedly, colonization in Quebec. He was speaking French and was unaware that the Prime Minister, Mr. Bennett was closely following his remarks.

In his attack against the Rev. Mr. G. M. Bilodeau, missionary agent of colonization, Mr. Pouliot went so far as to state: "I sent him something small so that it would be on a level with him."

[Mr. R. McKenzie.]

Mr. Bennett who until then had been following Mr. Pouliot's remarks, without interrupting him, could not help interjecting: "That is Liberalism at its best."

It is the first time, we think, that a Catholic member has thus attacked a priest, in the house. Therefore the hon. Mr. Bennett who was able to follow the whole of Mr. Pouliot's French speech . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. member to cease reading a long article. If he has a point to make let him state it to the house.

Mr. POULIOT: There are two or three more lines, and it must be quoted in full. I do not wish to impose on the house but it is essential that I read all that is said.

(Translation):

Therefore the hon. Mr. Bennett who was able to follow the whole of Mr. Pouliot's French speech did not miss the opportunity of pointing out to him that by thus attacking priests he was acting as a true Liberal.

Then follows a Hansard quotation.

And Mr. Pouliot, after this rebuff, continued his speech on a more respectful tone.

I have written what I have to say because I do not wish to overstep the limit.

If the correspondent of *Le Journal* had been fairminded enough not to detach an excerpt of Hansard of March 20, and separate it from the context, giving it a wrong meaning, the subscribers to that newspaper would have seen that I established an essential and very clear distinction, often repeated, between missionaries, properly speaking, and employees, and, it is simply of the employee to whom reference is made.

God forbid that anybody should attack, in the house, the sacred character of the priest . . .

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. POULIOT: I have just a sentence or two.

God forbid . . .

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the open defiance of the chair by the hon. gentleman it seems to me is something that should not be tolerated by this chamber. He was called to order, he said he had a few more lines to read, he has been reading several paragraphs, he is now called to order again and he repeats it. I thought it was a well understood rule in this house that articles in newspapers were not to be read unless they reflected on the conduct of the member in respect to particular legislation.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It did.

Mr. BENNETT: I followed it.