

it seemed to me that my hon. friend from Lanark was always going into see him, and I could not. He was a close friend of the great leader. He is an experienced public man. Did he not measure up to the standard? Was he insulted by the fact that another gentleman was taken as leader of the opposition? There is my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) sitting immediately behind the leader of the opposition, not many years the senior of the hon. gentleman in political record, but the senior in this respect, that he was chosen leader of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec, and it might reasonably be supposed that when a leader was required for the party generally, the gentleman holding that position in the great province of Quebec would have been considered as fairly in the line of promotion. I do not know why my hon. friend was passed by. Would it be because he was leader of the province of Quebec, and was not acceptable in that respect? I should be slow to think it. There is my genial and quiet and studious friend, the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) with a thousand qualifications the chief of which is his excellent good humour, on which I congratulate him. This hon. gentleman had also been labouring in the vineyard for a long time. He had been seventeen years in this House before the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. R. L. Borden) came here at all. Did he fail to measure up to the proper standard? Did he lack ability? Did he lack integrity? Did he lack qualification? Why is it—observe, Sir, that I am merely following the example of yesterday—why is it that he was ignored? One would suppose that his excellent qualities would have commended themselves to the members of the Conservative party when they assembled to select a leader. Was it again because, notwithstanding all these good qualities he came from the province of Quebec? Well, we on this side, thank Heaven, do not care what province a man comes from, or to what race or creed he belongs. The Liberal party is big enough to take a man for the man's sake, regardless of his province, his race or his creed. Then there are others. There is one whom I have not the pleasure of seeing here to-day, but who was formerly very active in public affairs, I allude to the former member for the county of Pictou. Did he fail to measure up to the standard of ability, of integrity, of the other qualifications? Certainly the hon. member for Pictou, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, was one of the great fighters of the Conservative party. Why is it then—again I am asking the question as they asked it yesterday—why is it that Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper was passed over in order that the hon. member for Carleton might become the leader of the Conservative party?

Mr. FOSTER. He is coming.

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Mr. FIELDING. He is coming? Well, I do not know whether he is coming or not. Whether he is coming as a leader or follower, the first point is that he shall come at all. I am not in the least depreciating the abilities of that gentleman, but I venture to say that if he is going to come back as the member for Pictou he has got to be a busier man in the matter of politics than he has been in the past few years. Then, there is my hon. friend the whip, the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor). I find that that hon. gentleman had been twelve years in this house before the hon. member for Carleton, Ontario, was called to come here at all. Nobody will question his fidelity; nobody will question his energy.

Mr. FOSTER. That is all right; he leads the leader.

Mr. FIELDING. Just so. Nobody will question his industry, his energy, his fidelity to his party, and how is it that his twelve years of faithful labour in the vineyard were ignored and that this young and comparatively unknown man was taken to be the leader of the rising hosts of the Ontario Tories? There are others. My hon. friend here mentions the name of the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule). That hon. gentleman is not in his seat to-day. I am sorry he is not here. My hon. friend from Grey was nearly twenty years in this house before the hon. member for Carleton, Ontario appeared here at all. Why was he ignored? Who will question his intelligence, who will question his knowledge of public affairs, who does not know that he is the head of a great organization which has done much for the Tory party of Ontario? That hon. gentleman had a thousand claims to the position, but it appears that he did not measure up to the standard that was required. Was he insulted? Was it a gross offence to him that this comparatively new man was taken to be the leader of the party? But, there are others. There is my hon. friend the member for South York (Mr. Maclean). If there are those who think that that hon. gentleman has not the special capacity for the leadership he certainly is not among the number. That hon. gentleman surely has been a zealous member for his party. He has, in addition to the service he has rendered to the party in this House and on the platform, been a most zealous supporter of his party in the press. How is it that he was not recognized, how is it that he could not measure up to the standard which was necessary in this case? I see that we have with us, and I am glad he is here, the veteran member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) who has put in an appearance for the first time to-day. He has a record in this house of having been a faithful and energetic, and honourable man who is worthy of all respect, and I am glad