

It is a strange situation, Mr. Speaker, which we have today. When evil days came upon the land in times past it was by reason of famine, pestilence, plague or war. But to-day we have poverty in the midst of plenty. An hon. member on the other side said we could have worse, instead of poverty in the midst of plenty we might have poverty in the midst of scarcity. In that case I would have sympathy with the government in office, but when we have poverty in the midst of abundance surely there is something wrong with the government. The heavens truly are kind to us, but the defects of our government make the goodness of the heavens of no avail.

There are some principles that former conferences have laid down which I think should be mentioned here. They laid it down that no country should impose upon others either opinions or debts or definitely fixed constitutions; that they should not bind coming generations in those respects, nor should they allow governments to float contracts and load their children with debts. But by these agreements we are interlocking our authority with that of the British nation, and contradicting these resolutions. I say that every nation's authority should be limited to its own boundaries. Not only that, but its authority should be limited to the present; they should not hand down to coming generations burdens over which the coming generations have no control. I consider that this government is disobeying every rule laid down by former conferences, destroying the fundamental principles fought for by our former prime ministers. I say that the British nation should have no intermingling of authority with this country, neither should we intermingle our authority with theirs. Each nation should be entirely free to open or close its own doors.

I note, Mr. Speaker, that my time has expired.

Mr. MARTIAL RHEAUME (St. John-Iberville) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take part in this debate so as to reply to a challenge sent, last week, to the Liberal members, by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré).

I invited the latter to meet me in my county. He was conspicuous by his absence and sent me the following telegram:
Mr. Martial Rhéaume, M.P.,
St. John-Iberville, Que.

I challenged the French-Canadian Liberal members to repeat to the electors of Quebec the charges voiced by the Liberals, namely: that the Conservatives had been too hard on the English at the Imperial conference; that the Conservatives had compelled the English to make concessions; that the Canadian Conservatives were opposed to the English or anti-

British. I again challenge you to repeat these words before your audience of Sunday and you do not require my presence as I will know, nevertheless, whether you have or have not repeated these charges. I trust you will read this telegram at the meeting and that you will explain how it happens that the Liberal party opposes the agreement that protects the farmer, the workman and the manufacturer and opens to us new markets for our products. Please explain to them also the disappointment of the Liberal party because we have succeeded where you have failed. I count on your loyalty to place the facts before your friends in their true light.

I received a letter from the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Gobeil) in reply to a telegram which I sent him. I must add that these gentlemen did not come to the meeting, and, by the way, I shall repeat what I stated last Sunday, at Iberville: I challenge the hon. Solicitor General to resign his seat and I shall do likewise, we can then both come forward in the constituency of St. Johns-Iberville. I shall further request the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) not to issue the election warrants for both ridings on the same date, so as to afford an opportunity to the hon. Solicitor General of being rebuffed by the electors of the city of Quebec as he will be in the constituency of St. Johns-Iberville. I also request the hon. member for Compton—who I invited to meet me in my constituency, Sunday, and who never turned up—to invite me to the county of Compton, together with the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard), the hon. member for Laprairie-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis), and other members, where we shall repeat the statements made in the house by our leader and the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe).

If you wish to find out Quebec's views on this subject, open up a riding and you will soon learn what they are. You have heard the voice of New Brunswick, when the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Jones) who had been elected, in 1930, by nearly 3,000 of a majority, was returned by slightly over 600 votes. You have heard the voice of Ontario in the South Huron election. In 1930, this riding had given a majority of 349 votes to the Liberal candidate and, in October last, the Liberal member for South Huron (Mr. Golding) was elected by a majority of nearly 2,000 votes. I think that they are afraid of Quebec. The government has certainly had the opportunity of finding out the views of Quebec. It has just appointed the Hon. Mr. Rainville to the Senate. I think that the choice of the party for this senatorship was the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinongé (Mr. Barrette). However I am informed that he was not ap-