

1896, dwindled down to 39 in 1900. He will have to tell us how it is that in some townships where (according to the census) there is not a single French Canadian man, woman or child; in Muskoka township for example where there is not a citizen of French Canadian origin, there was a majority of eight votes cast against him. In Ora township with only eight French Canadians, there was a majority of 51 against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett). In Medora and Wood with 59 French Canadian men, women and children on the census, representing probably a dozen votes, there was a majority of one against him. These are facts, Mr. Speaker, which the hon. member will have to explain. According to the last census the French population of the whole constituency of East Simcoe is 4,950 and the English speaking population is 31,726. How is it that with only a few hundred French Canadian voters in the riding—not all of whom voted against him, since at Lafontaine he took 47 votes as against 171 cast for his opponents—how is it that the hon. gentleman can make the charge he has made. He will have to find other reasons why it was, that 3,447 citizens of East Simcoe voted against him after he had represented the riding in parliament for seven or eight years. It is no argument to contend, that because he was in a minority in Lafontaine, I had gone up there or any other member of the Liberal party had gone there, to stir up race and religious discord. Sir, on every and upon all occasions I have condemned such conduct as that. In the county of Bonaventure which I represent nearly one-third of the population is English speaking; New Carlisle, New Richmond, Metapedia, Port Daniel west; these are all settled by the descendants of United Empire Loyalists, and if I were on any occasion or in any locality in this country to utter one word against English representation, it would be suicidal not only to myself in my own constituency, but suicidal to the party I have the honour to represent in that locality.

Sir, upon all occasions I have stood up for the principle of cementing the different races which inhabit this country. Let us hope that once and for all, that this cry of race and religion shall fall. When I had the honour of uttering the first words in this House in seconding the address at the opening of this parliament, the first wish that I expressed, in the first year of this century, in the first year of the reign of a sovereign who has given us an example in toleration which we may all imitate; the first word I uttered in this House was, for peace, for concord, and for harmony among all the people of Canada. Do not blame the province of Quebec for the vote it has given to the Liberal party. Do not blame the Conservatives of the province of Quebec for the Liberal votes they have given. Do not blame the French Canadians for the Lib-

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure).

eral votes they have given in East Simcoe. Why should not the French Canadian people be proud of the fact that for the first time in the history of confederation, Quebec, the mother province of this Dominion, produced a man who was worthy of occupying the first position in this land. Is it because the leader of the Liberal party is a French Canadian, that the province of Quebec should vote against him? Mr. Speaker, when the Conservative party offer to the province of Quebec, men who are worthy of the old Conservative leaders, when we have in the Conservative party men who can agree amongst themselves, and not men who though numbering less than a corporal's guard are unable to agree amongst themselves; one refusing to appear on the same platform as the other; then may the Conservative party expect a measure of confidence from the people. Until the Conservative party can offer the electors of the province of Quebec men who are worthy of their confidence, no sane man in this country will blame the independent French Conservative for casting an honest vote in favour of the Liberal candidate, when he finds that that Liberal candidate is the best man, has the best policy, and has the best leader.

Mr. W. B. NORTHRUP (East Hastings). Mr. Speaker, the evolution of political life seems to have produced as its latest phase a policy of silence. But, Sir, I am indeed glad that the cruel castigation the government received last night has taught them the lesson, that while speech may be silver and silence golden, the rule is not of universal application. I hope, Sir, before this debate is ended, that from the other side of the House, we will hear not only speeches such as that to which we have just listened with pleasure, expressing sentiments which must meet the approval of both sides of the House, but that also we may have speeches from the other side answering, or at least attempting to answer some of the serious charges that have been made against the government. I can quite understand that the hon. gentlemen opposite may not be anxious to join in the debate in this House. There are certainly ample reasons for reticence on their part, handicapped as they are by the fact that no matter which side of any subject they may choose to take, not only will they find that heretofore they have said exactly the same thing, but that we can make quotations of previous utterances of theirs, made at one place or another, which were utterly contradictory of their expressions here, no matter what they may be. I quite understand the embarrassment that Ministers of the Crown may have in discussing these questions, because there is not one of them who has not delivered himself in a way that he would not care to hear about to-day. Even in the remarks made by the premier the other evening—and we always listen to him