

it may be said they do not. Sir, nothing could be more indefensible than the action they have taken.

"Supposing Mr. Tarte did hold and does hold the sentiments which they attribute to him. Supposing—although it is not even a supposable thing—for the purposes of argument that Mr. Tarte in such opinion represents the existing view in the great province of Quebec, is it well for Canada that prominence should be given to that fact for political purposes? (Hear, hear). I deny that the people of Quebec hold such views. (Cheers.) It is a slander upon them to affirm it. But to say it when it does not exist, to create an impression in the judgment of the world that nearly one half of the population of Canada—and that half of a different nationality from the majority—are not in sympathy with Britain, would not respond to a call for help, and would not unite in any action which was calculated to consolidate Imperial interests, must tend to injure and prevent the growth

of the sentiments which we all desire, and must ultimately bring about under existing conditions the ruin and destruction of our country. (Cheers). This is the view which, I regret to say, is the serious one in this whole controversy. It is lamentable that for mere party purposes there should be found a single public man, or a single public journal, capable of sounding a wrong note as to where stand the people of Canada when the interests of the empire are at stake. Sir, such efforts will not be successful. (Cheers.)

"I hope that people will forget the suspicions which have been cast upon the loyalty and patriotism of our brethren in Quebec, because we have a common interest; and I hope and pray that nothing will ever occur to cause a serious division between the two great races upon whose harmonious action must ever depend the future greatness and prosperity of Canada." (Great cheering).

