

shall not read now from the judgment of the Privy Council, but shall read from the Order in Council. The order recites the decision, which I need not refer to again; but there is this language used in the order made by the Imperial Privy Council when the decision of the law lords was submitted to them:—

That the recommendations and directions therein contained be punctually observed, obeyed and carried into effect in each and every particular, whereof the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada for the time being and all other persons whom it may concern, are required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

That is pretty emphatic language. It has been said that the government had the discretion to act, or not to act, as they pleased. I appeal to hon. gentlemen of this House, when the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had decided that certain rights of the Catholic minority had been interfered with and that they had the right to appeal—I appeal to the hon. members to say whether when the Imperial Order in Council ended with that language it was open to the government here to fold their arms and say "We shall not do anything about it." That is the attitude of some hon. gentlemen who oppose the government, as well as some gentlemen who support the government.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Had the Privy Council the right to pass the order?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Well, they decided on the law, and that was their opinion. This remedial order gives in detail the rights of Roman Catholics which the minority had been deprived of by the Manitoba Acts of 1890. They are enumerated at page 24. My view is that the government here were not in a position to act or not to act. I feel that in issuing the remedial order which they did the government here were simply carrying out the decision of the Imperial Privy Council and doing what they were ordered to do by that decision; and that they were practically doing the sort of work a sheriff does when he serves a summons or any other writ. The court had given its decision and the writ issued. I do not complain of the remedial Order in Council. I think that the government merely did their duty in this matter; but hon. gentlemen, the government are so little

in the habit of doing their duty, and their followers as well as their opponents so rarely find them doing it, that most people were more or less surprised that they had done their duty. It is not a remarkable thing, but the government being so unused to doing their duty they thought that because they had in this particular matter done their duty for once, therefore, they were entitled to the support of all parties, not in this particular matter alone (I hope in this particular matter they will have the support of all parties) but in all matters. When they went down to different constituencies in this country, they thought the people of these constituencies should forget all their shortcomings and manifold offences during the last eighteen years and return their candidates simply because they had in this particular case done their duty. It is something the same as though a man who was about dying and who had led a particularly bad life, who had been a drunkard, a thief and a liar and had violated nine out of the ten commandments, should think he was entitled to a high place in the next world because he had not broken the tenth commandment. Now, hon. gentlemen, the voters of Antigonish and Verchères did not look at the thing just in that way. The electors of Antigonish thought that the fiscal policy of the government should be somewhat considered. The voters of Antigonish knew that the government professed to be the friends of the farmers, they knew that the policy of this farmer-loving government had depopulated their county to the extent of one-tenth—that the population had been reduced by one-tenth between 1881 and 1891. It is not because the people of that county are not given to marrying and giving in marriage, but it is simply because the people have had to leave the county because under the beneficent policy of the government they could not make a living in that county—one of the best agricultural constituencies in the whole Dominion. The electors knew that the promises of 1878 had not been redeemed. They knew that the emigration had not been stopped. That was one of the things which the former leader of the Conservative party, Sir John A. Macdonald, declared that the new policy was to do—that it was to put an end to the emigration from Canada. The people of Antigonish knew that instead of an end being put to that emigration, the emigration had largely increased. Then there had been