

in his good heart the proper expression with which to qualify legislation of this kind. I must confess, however, that I was disappointed, and the only word that I desire to add is to say how depressing such a state of things is for anybody who entertains the proper ideals of the future of this country.

Hon. P. A. CHOQUETTE: I had expected the other night that the honourable member for Hastings (Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell), who in the opinion of all is a very wise, honest and impartial man, would have given his views on this question. After the very eloquent and convincing argument advanced by both the honourable member from Stadacona (Hon. Mr. Landry) and the honourable member from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt), he said, if I remember correctly, that there was another side to the question, and he moved the adjournment of the debate in order, as I thought, that at the next sitting he might deal with the other side of the question. When the honourable gentleman stood up I was on my feet, but I was glad to resume my seat in order to give him the opportunity to speak first and answer the argument put forward by the two honourable gentlemen whom I have just mentioned. I would have been particularly pleased to hear the reasons and arguments of my venerable friend on this question. I feel very strongly upon it, but my mind is open, and I would have heard with interest any reasons the honourable gentleman might give. I do not know why he has not given the reasons he intended to adduce. At the last sitting he said that the case being before the court, it was not proper to talk of it. Well, I think he is mistaken, and on that point I would take issue with him. The case as put forward by the honourable gentleman from Stadacona is not, as a matter of fact, before the court. It is before the Government of this country. The sole question to which the honourable gentleman from Stadacona has directed the attention of this House is the fact that the two Acts of the Ontario legislature to which he referred were now before the Government in the form of a petition asking for their disallowance. So the case is not before the courts, but before Parliament, and this was the proper time and the proper occasion for the honourable gentleman to give to this House his opinion. As I have said, my mind is open; and, knowing the honourable gentleman as I do,

knowing what he has done in the past, knowing that he has even suffered from his own friends—his nest of traitors, as he said, because of the position he took on a somewhat similar question—I think, a correct one—the members, especially those on this side of the House, and above all the French Canadian members, would have been glad to know the reasons of my honourable friend; and I am sure that they would have carried some weight and might perhaps have removed some prejudices. So I am sorry that the honourable gentleman did not think it proper to speak. He has, then, withdrawn from the field of battle.

Now, honourable gentlemen, I do not want to go at length over this question, for I could not advance stronger reasons than those brought forward by the two honourable gentlemen whom I have mentioned. I desire only to give some proof of what they have said, to show that fair-minded men, educated men in Quebec and Ontario, professors in universities, are against what is going on now in Ontario and are implicitly asking for the disallowance of the Acts passed by the Ontario Government, saying that those measures, even if ultra vires, are unfair, unjust, despotic and Prussian-like. And I will give some proof of that.

The honourable gentleman from Ottawa, in arguing the case following the address by my honourable friend from Stadacona (Hon. Mr. Landry), has shown how the French people have been deprived of their right to their own language and have been condemned to pay heavy penalties or be sent to jail, simply for having, as school trustees in Ontario, permitted the teaching of the French language in schools where the majority of the pupils, if not practically all the pupils, were French. We have always been told that Ontario was the specially loyal province of this Dominion. In fact, the people of Ontario seem to believe that they have the monopoly of loyalty, that they always obey the laws, that they always respect the British flag and always stand by it; and naturally they say the French Canadians, from Quebec above all, are against all that; that they are disloyal, they do not like the British flag, they are jealous of the English people, and so on. Honourable gentlemen, let us see who are the men in this country who are loyal to the Empire and always ready to submit to the law of the land, to the decision of the highest courts, not only in Canada, but in the Empire, and who would never speak a word