

the signature of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. The letter is addressed to Dr. Lalonde who was organizer for Mr. Doyon and it is dated November 18, 1912:

My Dear Friend,—You inform me that certain ones are causing a rumour to be circulated to the effect that I am opposed to the contest which is now going on in Hochelaga division. I am surprised to learn this, and I regret the fact such reports have gained currency. I am not taking any part in the contest, believing that in following such course I am acting rightly. I gave up my place as a member of the Cabinet for the reason that the Government has decided not to institute a plebiscite on the question of a naval contribution.

So, taking together the declaration of the leader of the Government at the last session, his declaration here yesterday and the document which I have just cited, if the hon. member for Jacques Cartier was a hero when he went out, it will be very hard for the people of the country to believe that he was a hero when he came in because the people are under the impression that the late Minister of Public Works, when he went into the Cabinet, had had promises which enabled him to live up to the pledges that he had made to the electorate and, if he had no such promises, how is it that, over his signature, we now have the fact ascertained that a plebiscite on the question was only refused when he resigned?

Considering that the condition of affairs at the opening of last session was the same as yesterday, the people of this country will come to the conclusion that during the last twelve months the Cabinet has not arrived at a conclusion on the fundamental question of the naval policy. But there is another side to the question. If the hon. member for Jacques Cartier is a hero because he went out—and he went out because he could not live up to the pledges he had given to the electorate—with what name shall we qualify the act of the others who are remaining; who were returned because they made the same promises which bound the member for Jacques Cartier, and by which these hon. gentlemen do not seem to be much bound?

With regard to the paragraph from the Evening Post of New York quoted by the leader of the Government, I do not object to it being cited, but I object to the intent with which it was cited. I think it ill becomes a statesman like the leader of the Government, who has the confidence of the majority of the people of this country, who has been in communication with the Imperial authorities during last summer, and who has a standing before the world, to make such statements as he did.

Mr. GAUTHIER.

Is it the preparation for another ultra loyalist campaign, to have the Imperialists of this country swallow another contribution scheme? I cannot approve of anything of the kind. We on this side of the House do not boast of our loyalty, but let me remind the House that when the annexation manifesto was signed in 1849, it was not signed by Liberals; that when Canadian aid was refused to the Mother Country by the Government in 1884 it was not a Liberal Government that refused it; and in 1897, when the Empire was suffering from the South African war, it was a Liberal Government that sent volunteers to the aid of the Empire. When the preferential tariff was established, giving a preference in the market of this country to English goods, it was the act of the Liberal party. When the Transcontinental railway was engineered for linking up the different parts of the Dominion, it was engineered by the Liberal party; when the naval stations of Halifax and Esquimaux were accepted for the Government, they were accepted by the Liberal party; when the naval question was settled, it was settled by the Liberal party, and, more than that, it was settled with the consent and under the advice of the Imperial authorities.

These are deeds that we have done, and I think it ill becomes a member of this House, even if he be the Prime Minister, to insinuate that loyalty is the sole appanage of the gentlemen who sit on the other side. We claim that we can be Liberals and be loyal, and we have proved it. It is all very well for the hon. gentlemen who sit on the other side to wave the flag and claim that they are the only saviours of the Empire. We do not boast as much as they do, but we claim that our deeds are recorded in the statute books of this country, and we can stand on what we have done.

I now come to the two by-elections of Macdonald and Richelieu. I was one of the fortunate or unfortunate gentlemen, who fought for the Opposition candidate in the electoral contest of Macdonald. It may be very well for the hon. gentlemen who are sitting in their offices or at their desks in this House to treat in a humorous vein the attacks that have been made by gentlemen on this side of the House in regard to the Macdonald bye-election. After having sat in the Legislative Assembly of my province; after having practised at the bar of my province for twenty-three years, after having been elected a member of the House of Commons, and, more than that, being a free man in a free country, insulting nobody, trying to do what I thought was right, speaking from the platform and trying to give to those who heard my remarks the