

The last time I was present at a state dinner at Spencerwood was in the time of Sir Louis Jetté, when Judge Routhier was Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec, and, under this title Judge Routhier had precedence over senators. But I do not acknowledge that Judge Langelier has the title of Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec, since that position is actually filled by Judge Tait, and consequently I cannot admit that Judge Langelier has precedence over senators.

If his title of Deputy Chief Justice is invoked I would have you remark that such title has never existed. The Commission of the Honourable Magistrate, dated the 16th of June, 1906, purports simply that the Honourable Francois Langelier, Puisné Judge of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec, shall perform the duties of Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec in and for the district of Quebec, as it is comprised and defined for the Court of Review.

I would have you remark, moreover, that chapter 12 of 50 Victoria of the statutes of the province of Quebec having never been brought into force, the position which Sir Francois Langelier actually occupies is irregularly and illegally held by him to the detriment of the senior of the judges of the Superior Court in the district of Quebec, whom the law, still in force to-day, chapter 7 of 47 Victoria, statutes of the province of Quebec, designates as the legitimate holder of the title of that office.

In view of the respective situations in which senators and the Honourable Judge Langelier find themselves, and having regard to the order of precedence established by the imperial government itself and enforced in this country, I beg of you to be good enough, leaving out any diplomatic answer, to tell me straight if I can have the place to which I have a right as senator, in other words, whether Mr. Justice Langelier, yes or no, has precedence over senators.

I take the liberty of adding to this letter a copy of an essay upon the same question which I published in April last. It may serve as a complement to the present letter.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your humble servant,

(Signed) P. LANDRY.

I received a reply from the A.D.C., which reads as follows:

(Translation.)

Government House, Quebec,
29th October, 1909.

Mr. Senator,

In reply to your letter dated the 27th of this month, I have the honour to inform you that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor does not think it his duty to discuss with any one whatsoever the order of precedence which he is to assign to each of the persons whom he has the honour to invite to his table. As in the past, he will give each one the place which he believes belongs to him.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Senator,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) VICTOR PELLETIER,
Captain, A.D.C.

The Honourable P. Landry,
Senator,
Quebec.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY.

There is no doubt that the Lieutenant Governor expected a refusal on my part, and that he thought if I refused, in face of those answers, that I would put myself in the wrong. Further, he might have said, 'Well, he refused himself, but if he had come, we would have given him the place to which he was entitled.' I replied as follows :

(Translation.)

Quebec, October 30, 1909.

Captain Victor Pelletier,

Aide de Camp to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Quebec.

Sir,

Your letter of the 29th has been received, bringing to me the declaration:

1. That His Honour the Lieutenant Governor does not believe it his duty to discuss the order of precedence which he shall assign to each of his guests.

2. That he will give each one the place which he believes to belong to him.

What I have asked for, what I still ask for very respectfully, is precisely that I may be made aware what place His Honour believes he ought to give me.

As I am refused this preliminary information, which under the circumstances is even necessary, I have only one thing to do, for the moment, that is to accept the honour of the invitation which has been sent me.

It is, moreover, my duty.

I would only ask to be excused from it in case the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor had decided to give Sir Francois Langelier precedence over senators.

Believe me, sir,

Your humble servant,

(Signed) P. LANDRY.

To that letter I received no answer. That was written on the 30th of October. Receiving no answer, having forwarded my acceptance of the invitation tendered me by his Hon. the Lieutenant Governor, I had only one thing to do, and that was to proceed to Spencerwood. On my arrival, I proceeded to the anti-chamber, where the plan of the table was exhibited. I looked at the plan. I did not even see my name. In the meantime the A.D.C. came up to me, and I said, 'I see that according to the list I am not invited, but I thought I had received and accepted an invitation.' I said that in a very calm and pleasant way. He answered: 'Well, if you want to remain we will give you Judge Routhier's place.' He is an ex-Chief Judge of the Superior Court. According to the plan the first places were distributed as follows: The Lieutenant Governor was sitting at the