

House that not less than 27 letters were written to me upon the subject by members in the other House. I say 27 letters, but some of them were signed by three, or four, or five members. and there were in all 27 signatures; those communications were all couched in much the same terms, protesting against that assertion of the leader of the Government in this House, and stating that the writers had never expressed such a feeling, but that, on the contrary, they were anxious that their Province and nationality should be represented in this House. Now the Province of Quebec being entitled to 65 members, and it being the fact that 10 or 12 of that number belong to another nationality, and speak the English language, it will be apparent, if you take away those members belonging to the Liberal party, and who did not sign those letters, that 26 or 27 members protesting against that assertion of the leader in this House, represented a very large majority of the French speaking Conservative Members representing the Province of Quebec in the House of Commons. I do not know whether the leader of the Government will recollect that?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I do recollect having been told that by the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudiere (Mr. Belle-rose).

HON. MR. TRUDEL—It was at the end of the Session that I went to the Minister of Justice with this bundle of letters, which I showed to him. He said, "Of course I do not want to look at the letters, and I perfectly take your word; you say there are 26 or 27, and it is all right." I do not recollect whether that hon. gentleman looked at every signature, but if anyone should deny the existence of these letters or throw the slightest doubt upon them, they are still in my possession, and can be produced to satisfy such doubts. Our position therefore is this—we must in this House either remain silent, or, having vindicated our rights and then agreed to give a tacit consent to the present state of things, that consent will be invoked against us in the future, and it will be said—"we have a precedent; you say now that French representation should be given to you on the Treasury Benches—

why, my dear sirs, custom, habit and usage are against you. You see that for 10, 12 or 15 years you have not opened your mouths to raise objection, and not having done so you have, by your silence, in effect said that you agreed to this state of things—you have virtually confirmed it." Such, I say, will be the consequence if we remain silent, and in expressing our views upon this or any other question the House must remember that each of us can only do so in his own way. My hon. friend from DeLanaudiere has his own way of stating his opinions, and that may differ widely from the manner of his neighbor, the hon. Senator from Alma. The majority in this House should remember the position of the poor minority here,—those who are descendants of the men who 120 years ago fought, in the proportion of one against twenty in this country, and for what? Not to save their money, but for a principle which was dear to them,—to save the influence of their race. It may be considered by many that they were wrong, and it may be urged that the great majority in this country believe it would be more in the interest of the Dominion if we could bring about an assimilation of races, and that the sooner we can succeed in abolishing the use of the French language the better for the country. But, on the other side, if that minority, who by their bravery have obtained solemn treaties from the Mother Country, that all those rights which we vindicated here should be forever preserved,—if, I repeat, that majority believe that it is necessary not only for their race, but in the interest of the whole Dominion, that its nationality should continue to exist and to exercise all those rights guaranteed to it, their wish cannot be set aside. When confederation took place our French Canadian statesmen took great care to have embodied in the British North America Act the stipulation that all these privileges should be preserved, and that the Province of Quebec should have the same representation in the Senate of the Dominion as the Province of Ontario. The Constitution is there to show that we are to have the same power in this Chamber as the Province of Ontario exercises, but we find that to-day Ontario has three representatives in the Government in this House while no representation has been granted here to the Province of