

was disallowed there would have been a summons for a meeting of the legislature of Quebec. They would have passed that bill unanimously, and would have sent it back here, and what would have been the consequence? No government can be formed in Canada, either by myself, or by the hon. member who moves this resolution (Mr. O'Brien), or by my hon. friend who sits opposite (Mr. Laurier), having in view the disallowance of such a measure. What would be the consequence of disallowance? Agitation, a quarrel—a racial and a religious war would be aroused. The best interests of the country would be prejudiced, our credit would be ruined abroad, and our social relations destroyed at home. I cannot sufficiently picture, in my faint language, the misery and the wretchedness which would have been heaped upon Canada if this question, having been agitated as it has been, and would be, had culminated in a series of disallowances of this act.

Clearly, plainly, the government had then decided that there would be no disallowance, and Sir John A. Macdonald was pointing out to parliament at the time what dire consequences would have resulted if the legislation had been disallowed by the governor in council. So I think it is clear that the two cases are not identical. At the time the twelve month period had not expired—

Mr. BENNETT: It has not expired in this instance, either.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): In this case nothing has been done; we are still within the period. We shall have to do something. There will be a recommendation; the governor in council will act; then, I repeat, the action of the governor in council will be subject to the approval or disapproval of the House of Commons, and the life of the government will be at stake. That is all. Until that happens, I do not think it is proper for either the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre or any other member of parliament to try to instruct me as to the recommendation I should make, or to try to give the governor in council instructions, as my right hon. friend has used the word, as to the action that should be taken.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: As yet I do not think the Minister of Justice has definitely raised a point of order.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I have.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Then I would ask the Minister of Justice to state the point of order.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I cannot state it more plainly.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Then will the minister let me go on until he finds that I am not in order?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): We cannot both speak at once.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I was speaking when the minister interrupted me, and prior to that time there had been nothing whatever that was out of order. The minister interrupted and brought on a discussion without being able to point out any particular in which I was out of order. Taking the words out of his mouth, I should like to say that I am not seeking to instruct the government. I have no such idea in mind, and in the few introductory remarks I made there was no suggestion of anything of the kind. Further than that, I have no motion before the house, nor do I intend to make one. How, then, can the Minister of Justice talk about instructing the government, before there is any motion before the house?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Let my hon. friend be fair. He knows that those words were used by the right hon. leader of the opposition.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am speaking to the point of order, or the suggested point of order. I say the Minister of Justice had no right to interrupt me when there was no motion before the house. I am under a debt of gratitude to the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett)—

Mr. BRADETTE: Oh, yes.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: For what? For attacking this question of disallowance, but as a matter of fact I had no intention of bringing up the matter of disallowance.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Then, what is the hon. member talking about?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Give me a chance to tell the right hon. gentleman. The minister has been talking quite beside the point. I wish he would not be quite so jittery about this matter.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): So what?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: So jittery; so frightened.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): That is another word I do not know.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: So nervous. Jittery is a word used a great deal on the street these days, and I commend the minister to look it up in some of the slang dictionaries. I wish the minister would not go off on a tack and make remarks that are quite beside the point. Let me repeat: Far from trying to intimidate the government, I have not even a motion to propose, and I had no idea of asking for disallowance. I stand here to