

seems that after hearing arguments pro and con, Sir Mackenzie Bowell said in substance: It is, I think, a question of justice towards the Catholics and I am determined to submit remedial legislation. He, accordingly, had the bill drafted. Then he allegedly said to his ministers that in the interest of the Catholic cause and of the people who were unfairly treated, and since he might not be deemed by all the provinces to be the most useful person to deal with this matter, it would be better to choose another prime minister to replace him and he resigned. It was then that Sir Charles Tupper, one of the Fathers of Confederation, was called and he became Prime Minister. Thus "Father Tupper", as he was then referred to, was called in and he assumed the burden. As a condition of his acceptance, he demanded that two men who were then in the Senate share in his sacrifice. They were Senator L. O. Taillon, former premier of the province of Quebec, and Senator Angers. He asked them to resign from the Senate, enter his cabinet and support him in his determined attempt to have the remedial bill passed by Parliament.

The Hon. the Speaker: I do not wish to restrict the honourable senator in his remarks, but we are on third reading of the bill and it is only on second reading that the principle of a bill may be discussed. I tried to be as lenient as possible. I allowed all the latitude in the world, but it seems to me that the remedial bill which the honourable senator is discussing at the moment is far removed from the provisions contained in the bill now before the house. I repeat that it is not my wish to restrict unduly the honourable senator's remarks, but I want him to understand that it is my duty as Speaker to limit the debate, in accordance with the rules of the Senate, to the exact provisions contained in the bill before us. I think the honourable senator has ventured far from the legislation under discussion.

Hon. Mr. Monette: Your Honour, if your decision is not yet final, I am just about to come to the point.

The Hon. the Speaker: Very well then.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: As this matter is of great interest, the honourable senator from Mille Isles might be allowed to carry on, with leave of the Senate.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is not necessary since the honourable Senator has just said that he was coming to the point.

Hon. Mr. Monette: I appreciate the interjection of the honourable senator who was born in my county, in my province and against whom I ran as a candidate and who defeated me by a small majority.

Following the events which I have related, a remedial bill was submitted to the house and since Parliament at the time was in the last year of its term of office, the opposition, under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier—if I may say so—resorted to obstructionist tactics. You will, no doubt, recall that Parliament sat night and day in order to carry on with the debate until Parliament died a natural death, which in fact happened; it was necessary to go to the people before a vote could be taken on the bill. Sir Wilfrid had become the leader of the opposition—I am bound to mention it for the sake of the record but I say it dispassionately because even though I then belonged to a Liberal family, I left that party for reasons similar maybe to those which the honourable senator from Kennebec has just mentioned in regard to his own father. Later on, elections were held and Sir Wilfrid Laurier during his campaign said that there was no need to pass a remedial bill which would be a source of dissension, and he added: "I am going to settle the matter with my friend Greenway". But it was not done and the remedial bill could not be passed because the Conservative party was defeated and Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office. No remedial bill on that matter has been passed or submitted since, and those events took place over 65 years ago.

Hon. Mr. Dupuis: Could the honourable senator add that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had delegated Henri Bourassa?

Hon. Mr. Monette: Yes, I am coming to that. As soon as Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office, which put Sir Charles Tupper in the opposition, Mr. Tarte and Mr. Bourassa were appointed to settle the matter with Mr. Greenway, the Liberal premier of Manitoba. They went to see him and they brought back what was called, in the province of Quebec, "the short half-hour of French and catechism", but no amendment to the Manitoba Act was moved. What is left to-day of that "short half-hour" I do not know. But, that is the situation.

Never since has any remedial bill on the matter been passed and, therefore, the decision rendered in 1895 by the Privy Council to the effect that the Manitoba Act could not be nullified remained valid. Even now, some 90 years later, if we wanted to get a decision to