

Bellechasse. I have much regard for my friends in the opposition and I cannot imagine that in 1929 out of 61 members from Quebec all sitting on your right, sir, not one expressed the wish to the leader of the government when the currency contract came up, that the country be given a bilingual currency. Since such was the case, the whip who is the executor of the high party orders, must have had his hands full to keep them in line, and I am sure that if the hon. member divulged to the house the means to which he resorted, we would have a very interesting page of the inner history of the Liberal party.

What about the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe), the first lieutenant of the prime minister of that period, the leader of the French Canadian representation, the great champion of the rights of his race in Quebec? In 1925 and 1926, and even in 1930, he also was one of those who, on the hustings, addressed the French Canadians, and explained to them the necessity of electing a solid phalanx to safeguard their rights, language and liberties. Will the hon. member for Quebec East explain why this contract was awarded, in 1929, for a unilingual currency? I think, sir, that it behooves the hon. member to explain to the house this change in their policy, because this question was an issue in 1929 as it is to-day. It was even more an issue then, because of the 348 petitions received by the Minister of Finance of that day. It behooves the hon. member for Quebec East to inform the house and the Quebec representation why this question was not settled in 1929, when times were normal, when the question was easier to settle than to-day, because there existed less restlessness. I am certain that if the hon. member for Quebec East confided to the house why it was not done, it would make very interesting news. While awaiting his statement, may I divulge what, I think, was the main reason. It was, sir, that, in 1929, the Liberal party was in power, while to-day it is in the opposition.

If the Liberal party was in power, to-day, and a Conservative member moved a resolution similar to the one before the house, I have not the least doubt that the hon. member for Quebec East would quote the views that his late leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, expressed in the house, on February 25, 1907, on a similar resolution moved by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne). Let us examine the statement made, in 1907, by the leader of the Liberal party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier the idol of the province of Quebec. His words are quoted on page 3655 of Hansard, February 28, 1907:

... but I must protest against the idea that because bank notes are not printed in French as well as in English, one can state that the French language is not on a footing of equality with the English.

We have our rights and we should exercise them when it is our interest to do so, but I do not think we should be pedantic and insist that on every occasion the French language should be spoken.

Will any of our hon. friends, in the opposition, rise in the house this evening and contend that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a traitor to his race when he made this statement. I invite our hon. friends opposite to rise in their seats and tell us what they think of the views expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in 1907, with reference to the bilingual currency.

Mr. DORION (Translation): There must have been whipped dogs at that period!

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): There certainly were whipped dogs, I mentioned the fact a short while ago; there were some then as there were in 1929.

Mr. GIROUARD (Translation): There is very little sense shown in such a remark.

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): If there is little sense shown the fault lies with the member for Bellechasse.

Such is the consistency of the upholders of Liberal principles.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Is it not a fact that the hon. Mr. Devlin, a Liberal member, moved a resolution to that effect?

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): I have been informed that according to the doctrine of integral Liberalism, so highly thought of by the hon. member for Quebec East, this is called "adapting oneself to circumstances." In our rural districts it is designated under another name. In this matter, the hon. member for Bellechasse, a legal luminary, conscious of his superiority over my humble self, thought he could, in the course of last summer, in his letters to the press, counter my thrust by displaying his contempt for me; and accordingly, in one of his letters, he could not find a more contemptible expression in speaking of me than that of "back country politician."

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): It was well deserved!

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): I frankly state that I did not feel very much offended; however, in the back country to which the hon. member alludes and which he seems to so much despise, when a man says white one day and black the next day, as the Liberals did, in 1907 and 1933, on the question of bilingual currency, our "habitants", our country