

before the British Parliament. They are going to pass a Conscription Act. What was the bargain? No—bargain is a bad expression—what were the negotiations between the Irish people and the Government. The Nationalists were against conscription, but they said, "We are willing to permit the Bill to pass if you will exclude Ireland, and so on." That is a negotiation; there is no blackmailing there. In Quebec there are some men who say to Ontario: "You are trampling on the constitution to deprive us of our right, of our liberty, of our language, and before asking a favour of us the least you can do is to give us justice." I must en passant congratulate the honourable Speaker of this House on the stand he took on this question, also my hon. friend Hon. Mr. Belcourt, of Ottawa, for the stand he took constitutionally, legally, and sentimentally—if necessary to say that—on this question. On the other hand, I protest against the expression of some yellow papers in Toronto saying that it was an attempt to bargain. I have the right to say to a man who asks me for a favour, "I am willing to help you, but the least you can do is not to trample on my rights, and to do me justice."

Hon. Mr. DAVID—What have England and France to do with the school question?

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—The question I am now speaking about is enlistment in Quebec; I did not say a word about France. I was answering Ontario papers that are abusing us. My hon. friend, who is supposed in words at least, to be ready to fight for the language and for provincial rights and liberty, should be the first to support me and say that I am right. Now, my hon. friend the leader of the Government yesterday said that we might be invaded by the Germans from the United States, that there is a menace from the United States; that if Germany is victorious we may not be free. I hope Germany will never be victorious, and that the Allies will be successful in the end, notwithstanding the words of Lloyd George "too late;" but I make this argument to show that many are of the opinion that, according to the constitution, our soldiers and our money ought to be kept in this country to defend ourselves. I say if it is true, as the hon. leader said, that Germany might come here and try to invade and conquer Canada—if it is a fact that we may be in danger, that is a good argument for saying, "Then keep

our soldiers here, keep our money to defend ourselves." Though I am sure, even if by any possibility Germany should be victorious, there is no danger of them coming into Canada. They would be too friendly with the United States, and it might happen that we would become independent, as Belgium was before the war, or join the United States. But that is not the question; we are glad to be as we are, and we desire to stay as we are, loyal to England, and loyal especially to Canada. But I repeat that if, as a fact, there is danger of invasion from the United States, that may be good reason to argue that we ought to keep our men, our army, in Canada in case of danger, and then those who are supporting that view ought not to be abused and called names.

In dealing with these two subjects in the Speech from the Throne, I have unfortunately taken up some side issues and too much time; but as to the two items I would repeat that I am strongly opposed to extending for one minute the term of this Parliament, for the reasons I have given; and I agree with the Gazette and the Citizen that you have no mandate to raise in this country a force of 500,000 men and spend hundreds of millions of dollars without going back to the people and asking them if they favour such a policy. If the majority of the people give you carte blanche I shall be the first to vote all the millions necessary and help you to raise all the men you want; but I say that you have no mandate to do that. On the contrary, the present Government was elected to oppose the very action they are taking now. On the whole, having frankly and honestly expressed my views, I protest against all those who would say I have uttered a word which is unbecoming to a true and loyal citizen and elector of this Dominion.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I want to move the adjournment of the debate.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—No, no.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—Hon. gentlemen

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I had the floor before anybody else. If you decide against me, my eyesight is no good.

Hon. Mr. SPEAKER—I caught the eye of the hon. member from Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—I am bound to say that I had not the slightest intention