

differed from him in politics, but I do not know whether I should be flattered at the particular attention he has devoted to me. He has brought up this subject at least three times to my recollection within the last five years. I was invited once to go to Penetanguishene and the adjoining parish of Lafontaine, where there is a French population of some 3,000 people, who originally came from Joliette and Berthier, and, following the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers and the Georgian bay, finally founded their settlement in the place where they now are. This was in the days of Louis Hyppolite Lafontaine, who gave them a post office, and in return for the compliment which had been paid to these settlers they suggested that the place should be called Lafontaine. Since then the people have shown themselves to be industrious, law-abiding citizens. The parish of Lafontaine is one of the most interesting spots in the province of Ontario. It is a wholly French parish transported bodily from the province of Quebec. They have there the old style of architecture in their dwellings and the French stone church, they have the presbytere, the curé with his soutane, the convent, the dual language, the young people speaking the English language, as all French Canadians do to-day, but the older men speaking only the French language. I am sure my hon. friend will admit that these people have been no discredit to the riding of East Simcoe.

Mr. BENNETT. Hear, hear.

Mr. C. MARCIL. They are industrious; law-abiding, frugal and honest. When election time comes on some of them, not understanding the English language, request the candidates to send for speakers from the province of Quebec who can speak to them in the French language. Could there be anything more natural than that? That was a very natural request, and our Conservative friends could have done the same thing, but I defy the hon. gentleman from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) to quote one word that I ever uttered at Lafontaine, at Penetanguishene, or at any place in the seven provinces of Canada, which was even remotely calculated to stir up religious or racial warfare in any shape or form.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the hon. gentleman allow me a moment. In 1900 I did mention this matter of the presence of the hon. member (Mr. Marcil) at Lafontaine and I made exactly the same statement then, as I did yesterday, and the hon. gentleman did not at that time deny it; and had he denied it I had proof at the time that would have controverted his denial. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Marcil) has now taken three years to make a denial.

Mr. C. MARCIL. I denied the statement when it was first mentioned in the House in 1901, and the denial is in 'Han-

sard.' The first time I visited Simcoe in a federal election, was the by-election when my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) had been unseated, and had any other man except his opponent been the candidate of the Liberal party at that time, we would have carried the riding.

Mr. BENNETT. It was the Sunday meetings held by your French speakers that helped to kill you.

Mr. C. MARCIL. The Sunday meetings were not only held by Liberals but Conservatives as well.

Mr. BENNETT. It disgusted the English Liberals.

Mr. C. MARCIL. Sunday meetings are held also by the Conservative friends of the hon. gentleman from East Simcoe.

Mr. BENNETT. Never in that riding; they were introduced by you.

Mr. C. MARCIL. The member for East Simcoe will have to find some other reason when he is trying to hoodwink the House, and to throw dust in the eyes of the people of Ontario. I say, Mr. Speaker, that this idea of fomenting a solid Ontario as against a solid Quebec, is not a patriotic work, and I am sorry that some of the gentlemen opposite should attempt in this discussion to convey the idea that the people of Quebec are standing to-day behind that Liberal party and its leader, because of his origin. Such is not the fact. They are standing behind the Liberal party in Quebec because there is no Conservative party behind which they can stand. There was a time when the Conservative party in the province of Quebec was led by Sir George Cartier, and there came to this House a solid phalanx from that province. They were called 'les moutons de Cartier; les moutons bleus.' Cartier's sheep. They kept Sir John Macdonald in power and never was a word uttered, and never was a threat made against the province of Quebec at that time. But, when the immense majority of the people of the province of Quebec, Conservatives and Liberals found that the Conservative party had lost its leader, found that the Conservative party had lost its Macdonalds, had lost its Thompsons, had lost its Abbotts, when they found that Sir Hector Langevin was driven from public life, and Sir J. A. Chapleau refused to enter a Conservative administration; when the people of Quebec had found all this, how could they be blamed for turning around and casting their votes in favour of a man whose career had been unimpeached and unimpeachable, and who has since shed so much glory upon this country.

The hon. gentleman from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) will have to find another reason than the vote of the poor electors of Lafontaine, to explain why his majority of 246 in