

*The Address—Mr. Pouliot*

between the cause and effect, and there lies the reason of your splendid success in the "Ville Lumière."

I have only two matters to bring to your attention to-night, Mr. Speaker. One has to do with a statement made in Montreal by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan), who on December 15 last spoke at a dinner given to the mayor of Montreal, who is also the member for Ste. Marie in the Quebec legislature. I would not take any notice of the statement but for its reflection on the Quebec members of this house. The first paragraph is very interesting. I am quoting from the Montreal Gazette of December 17, 1928, at page four:

Though the Conservative party suffered a disastrous defeat in 1896 from which it has not yet recovered, because of its efforts to maintain the spirit of the confederation pact in the matter of the schools of the province of Manitoba, yet the Conservative representatives from this province at the recent Conservative convention in Winnipeg, again secured the unanimous adoption of a resolution maintaining the traditional policy of their party in the matter of the schools of Alberta. That in itself indicated what you may accomplish by cordial cooperation with the Conservatives of other provinces of Canada.

For the benefit of argument, suppose for a moment we admit that the Conservative party is more friendly to French-Canadians than any other party. Now let us see what this martyr has to say about the way he has been treated by his own party. The hon. member continues:

Nevertheless there are tens of thousands—

Not only the member for St. Lawrence-St. George but several others.

—of English speaking Conservatives who have voluntarily sacrificed all hope of personal political preferment—

And I direct this to the attention of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett).

—by reason of their persistent efforts in defence of your traditions,—

That speech is addressed to French-Canadians.

—your rights, your privileges and your interests, of which the Conservative party in times past has been the chief support and stay.

Here is a strange contradiction. In the first part my hon. friend says that the Conservative party is the party which is friendly to French-Canadians, and in the second part of his remarks he declares, "Well, we ourselves have had trouble with the same party because we have defended your rights". This is inconsistent. I should not have believed my hon. friend had said it had it not been quoted

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in a Tory paper. If it is true that the Conservative party is the party which is friendly to French-Canadians, how is it that so many Conservatives have suffered preferment because they have defended the rights of French-Canadians? If it is true that my hon. friend suffers now because he is supposed to have defended French-Canadians, how can his party be friendly to French-Canadians? That seems rather inconsistent and illogical in one of the brightest minds in this house. Let us continue—and here is a slur on all French-Canadian members from Quebec and even English members from that province who represent constituencies in this house. The hon. gentleman goes on:

What is the result to-day of the maintenance of the Liberal political bloc? Numerically, the Liberal representatives from the province of Quebec form the majority upon which the present government of Canada depends for a continuance of its political existence; yet, nevertheless, they are bound hand and foot to another, western, bloc, which actually exercises complete control, and whose economic theories and economic policies are subversive of your obvious material interests, and they the Liberal representatives of this province, are so obedient to the crack of their party whip that they always become dumb and speechless when issues, pregnant with dire import to you, to your province, to your ideals, to your traditions, are under discussion in the parliament of Canada.

I do not understand how one of our colleagues in this house can use such language in reference to sixty-one members from one province. I do not share the views of hon. gentlemen opposite; they have their own views and we have ours. But we respect each other. I do not believe we are all saints; no one of us is a saint, but we do our very best, and I believe my hon. friends opposite do the very best they can with a bad cause. I give them credit for their efforts. But no one has ever heard a member from Quebec say that all the members from Ontario or from any other province are not doing their duty in the House of Commons. Who ever heard such a statement? I find this very strange, and I could hardly have believed that this speech had been correctly reported had I not heard it myself on the radio. I was astounded to hear a respectable member of this house directing such remarks against sixty-one members who, while they do not share his political views, nevertheless hold him in respect.

May I quote one of the contemporaries of my hon. friend, the member for St. Lawrence-St. George—a man who, it is true, died some time ago. I refer, sir, to St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Antioch, who lived in the fifth