

important power rests properly and constitutionally in the other branch of the Legislature, and the Premier must, of necessity make such arrangements as will receive the concurrence and approval of the majority in the House of Commons; and I beg to remind the hon. member that we do not hear these complaints in the House of Commons. The party to which my hon. friend belongs—the Conservative party of Quebec * * * as represented in the House of Commons, does not find fault with the First Minister for not having a representative of the French speaking population in this branch of the Legislature. They do not say we are discontented, and we shall, by a vote of want of confidence, turn out the Government, because you have not done justice to the French population." They do not feel the injustice; they do not think or say that there is any injustice. * * * The hon. gentleman must see that every Government must be constructed so as to command the confidence of the lower branch of the Legislature. This Government does command the confidence of the Chamber. If they do not, and if the representatives of Quebec in the Lower House are dissatisfied, they have only to say so, and the Government must necessarily succumb. But they have no such feelings—they are content, they do not see the grievance of which the hon. gentleman complains, and the inference I draw is that, while I am aware of the convenience which would result from having a French Canadian Member of the Government in this House—to no one more than myself—yet the French Canadian Conservatives see that the circumstances were such as to hinder the Premier from making the change on the recent occasion.

Such are the reasons given by the Government as an excuse for this abuse of power. Believing as we did, and as we had reason to believe from the fair words which fell from the lips of the hon. leader of this House in previous Sessions, that justice would be done, we decided that we ought not to raise the question before the people, during the last general elections, but rather that we should give the help of our influence to the Government—as we did—and the Government have come back from the polls with a large majority. But far from receiving justice at their hands, after their victory, another step is made in violation of the established practice—that the Speakers in the two Houses of Parliament be not of the same nationality. During last Parliament the Speaker of the Senate spoke English, while the Speaker of the Commons was of French origin. The Speaker of the Senate has been continued in office during this new Parliament, while the Speaker of the Commons has been replaced by a gentleman of British origin; so that now both Speakers are English. No doubt our friends in the Commons now will see

the mistake they made when they refused to help us in forcing the Government to carry out not only the arrangements entered into by the leaders of the different Provinces, but also the true interpretation of the 133rd clause of the British North America Act of 1867, which impliedly enacts that there shall be a Senator on the treasury benches in the Senate, able to follow the debates in the French language.

They will now understand, but rather late, that in the way that leads to evil, "*Il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte.*" Rumor says that they have remonstrated—better late than never—but let them not forget that if they are indifferent when the constitution is violated by the Government, as it has been during the past four years, it will be difficult for them to make a good case, when only a simple arrangement has been violated, as in this instance.

Whenever the rights of a minority are trampled upon, the members of that minority ought to unite and demand redress. It was only thus the Irish population of Ontario accomplished their purpose.

HON. MR. POWER—It is not customary to discuss the Address at any length, but on the present occasion it seems to offer certain points which call for comment, and which, perhaps, can be discussed with as much profit now as at any other stage of the Session, and for that reason I venture to trespass on the time and patience of the House for a little while. I wish, before saying anything about the Address to make one or two remarks which have been suggested by the speech of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. I think that the regret felt by that hon. gentleman that the Government had not thought fit during the past four years that a representative of the French element in the Senate should have occupied a seat on the treasury benches has been shared by a great many others besides the French members themselves, and I think that the regret which many of us feel at that fact must be very much intensified by what we have learned, from the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, of the extremes to which a member of the Government has been driven in order to gain a seat in the