

which some strictures fell from the lips of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). On one or two occasions in the province of Quebec, I heard rumours of this kind of thing, but as I was not present when the charges were made and therefore unable to explain the true facts of the case, I am glad to have the opportunity now of stating them to parliament and the country. The Liège exhibition, like many others, was taken part in by Canada from a national point of view, and the Dominion government was careful to see that the representation was a national one and not a local or a partial exhibit. Some years ago the provinces did take part in these universal exhibitions, and on several occasions there was some clashing among the representatives of the provinces themselves and between them and the representatives of the Dominion. When the policy of having a special Canadian pavilion at these exhibitions was adopted by this government, it was declared that this was to be a national pavilion and that the exhibits therein were to be the products of the Dominion as a whole and not of any special province. The exhibit was to be a national and not a local one. We have adhered to that policy, and I venture to think that the results at the various exhibitions which have been held during the past five years have been a complete justification of that policy. When the Liège exhibition was announced, the Dominion government received an invitation to participate and accepted that invitation, and we arranged for the establishment in it of a Canadian pavilion. I was asked by the authorities of the exhibition, as minister in charge, to give the names of the commissioners from Canada and those who would have charge of our pavilion and its exhibits. I gave the name of my chief commissioner. Shortly afterwards I received a letter from the officials in Belgium informing me that a certain gentleman by name the Baron de Lépire was declaring in Belgium that he had authority to represent this Dominion at that exhibition. I replied that he had no authority from the Dominion government, but that we had our properly constituted commissioner going there and doing the work, and my reply to the people of Belgium was that the only authority which I could recognize there as representing Canada was the commissioner whose name I had sent. I was asked afterwards to nominate an honorary commissioner and I was very glad at the request of the authorities in the province of Quebec, to name the Hon. Mr. Turgeon as honorary commissioner for Canada at that Belgium exhibition. The statement that the authorities of the province of Quebec were refused entrance into the pavilion at Liège is not correct. That province, the same as the others, was told it could not have particular representation in the Canadian national pavilion, and the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia and the others

as well as the province of Quebec, in the recent exhibitions, were all informed that in the national pavilion of Canada only Canadian national exhibits could be received and accepted and only the officers of the Dominion government could have authority or control there as representing Canada. All the provinces were told this over and over again. As far as literature is concerned, let me say that in the Liège exhibition, over a million documents in French were distributed, on behalf of the Dominion, to the people who came to visit. There was no objection to the province of Quebec circulating its documents.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. I made the statement this morning, and I made it on the authority of Mr. Obalski, engineer of the Quebec government, and Mr. Simard, employee of the Quebec government, who both told me that some literature sent by the Quebec government—I think it was a book written by Mr. Girard—was ordered by Mr. Hutchison to be put in the cellar of the pavilion and not distributed.

Mr. FISHER. I cannot believe that to be true although I have said over and over again that, as far as the Canadian pavilion and this government are concerned, they do not distribute the literature of any particular province, but literature which deals with the whole Dominion without reference to any particular province, and in that respect the province of Quebec is treated just the same as all the others. The exhibition work of the Dominion government is a national one, is a work without reference to provinces and for the benefit of the whole country, for Quebec just the same as for any other part of the country and no more for Quebec than for any other province.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. The literature which was distributed by the Dominion government was supposed to treat of Canada, but, as a matter of fact, it treated only of the provinces of the Northwest.

Mr. FISHER. That is not correct. The Dominion literature treated of all the provinces equally, treated every province according to its proportions, according to its capabilities—I will not say according to its importance in the country, because the provinces are equally important. The description of every province was just as complete for that province as the description of the Northwest for the Northwest, and in every regard, in all exhibitions in which we have taken part, our officers have been particular to say that all the provinces of Canada welcome immigration, are able to absorb and take in and deal well with immigrants. We gave the same information to immigrants in respect to every province, from the maritime provinces in the east to British Columbia in