

an expression from the eloquent member for York (Mr. Foster)—that we would have heard the welkin ring to the tune of "He's got no power among his own people." But it seems to me it ought to be something for him to know that the province in which he has lived for over half a century, that the people among whom he has laboured and by whom he is best known, have given him a majority that we are proud to see in this House. It must be some comfort to him to feel that those who know him best love him and trust him the most.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Speaker, I would have preferred to have spoken earlier in the debate. Questions of great and varied importance which have come up during the discussion have already been dealt with by hon. gentlemen on both sides; so that it is almost impossible for me at this period to discuss those questions without repeating what has already been said. In addressing myself, however, for a few moments to the attention of Parliament, I do so more particularly for the purpose of putting my views before the House and country upon some of the points which have been brought out during the discussion, but I must at the very outset, following in the wake of those who have spoken before me, offer my congratulations to the gentlemen who were charged with the duty of moving and seconding the Address—a duty difficult to perform the first time it becomes the duty of a young member to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The hon. the mover (Mr. McInnes) expressed his views in a very forcible manner. It was quite evident that he brought to the House of Parliament that energy and determination which characterizes the far-famed western country. The hon. gentleman expressed his views in such a manner as to convince every member of this House that with further parliamentary experience he should lose no opportunity or representing the views of those who sent him here, in such a forcible manner as to bring conviction to his hearers. If I have one reproach to make to the hon. gentleman, it is that his energy pushed him so far that if what he has asked the leader of the Government to grant to his province were granted, the older portions of the Dominion and the more eastern provinces would be left out in the cold. The hon. gentleman demanded for his province nothing less than a mint, the payment of ten million dollars to be returned to his province which he claims that province has contributed in excess of what is received from the Dominion. He also asks for Cabinet representation. I hope, in the interests of the Dominion at large that all his demands will not be granted, but the hon. gentleman certainly has acquitted himself of the duty which he had to perform in a manner which did him credit.

When I now come to the seconder of the Address (Mr. Lemieux), I must say that

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

during my extended parliamentary career, I have seldom heard a speech delivered in a more eloquent manner and spoken in more perfect and classical French—that language wherein the poet and the orator and the historian have found the channel to communicate their labours and their thoughts to the civilized world. I differ from the hon. gentleman upon some parts of his speech. For instance, I have noticed that within comparatively few years, some four or five years, hon. gentlemen belonging to the Liberal party in the province of Quebec have endeavoured to place upon the pages of their political history the names of those distinguished men whom we consider to have been the founders of the Conservative party. The hon. gentleman in his speech referred to Lafontaine and to Morin and to Cartier as being connected with the party with which he is working to-day. Reading history as I read it, it becomes very difficult indeed for me to trace back to such men as the Morins and the Cartiers and the Lafontaines any connection with the old Liberal party or the party which has succeeded to it in the province of Quebec. I see that the leader of the Government, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, proclaimed in Quebec that Lafontaine was one of the greatest Canadians we ever had in that province. In that expression of opinion I am quite prepared to agree with the hon. gentleman, but I must say that those with whom he is in sympathy have not all spoken of Lafontaine in the terms used by him. In a speech which he made in the city of Quebec, on the 4th June, 1894, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, after quoting, amid the plaudits of the Liberals who composed his audience, the words used by Mr. Cartier on the union which confederation was likely to effect between the different races composing the Canadian people, he proceeded to use the following language, which with the permission of the House, I shall quote in the language in which it was delivered. Mr. Laurier said:

I am happy to find a Liberal meeting applauding such words. They are great, weighty, noble, generous words. It is the language of a man who also cared for the duties suggested to him by the special position in which his race stood. I am well aware, and do not forget, that the Liberals of Lower Canada dreaded confederation. I do not forget that Sir A. A. Dorion and the French Canadian Liberals feared that confederation would be the end of things, which we always consider as a sound inheritance; but Sir George Etienne Cartier had no such fear, and I, Dorion's disciple, pupil of Dorion's school, have no hesitation to say that my ideas in this respect are common with those of George Etienne Cartier, and not with those of Sir A. A. Dorion.

And some time later, on the occasion of the publication of Cartier's speech, he wrote that, of all the political leaders, he was the one who had "that clearest notion of the duties which the condition of the French race imposed upon him," and that he had "no superior outside of Lafontaine." Now,