

gard to absolute free trade, a motion which, from what I can hear, from his previous remarks and from his proclivities in his province, I imagine, was not concurred in by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McKenzie) who has preceded me in this debate, not concurred in by the hon. member from Sherbrooke (Mr. McCrea), and not concurred in by some others whom I see sitting opposite to me and who are smiling as I now speak. But he was the person sent to Assiniboia to support the Liberal candidate there against the farmers' candidate. He was so unprepared and these gentlemen who went out as his emissaries were also so unprepared that they were like the "Babes in the Wood;" they were apparently absolutely without any protection and comfort, and the result was the election of a man against the candidate of my hon. friends opposite to the tune of a majority of about four thousand.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Great victory for the Government.

Mr. MOWAT: If that is the sort of an election which my hon. friend is in such a hurry to bring on, the sooner he brings it on the better. I shall not support the amendment because, much as I regret to say it, I do not believe in its sincerity. But I should like to support any motion which would bring on an election now, because at the present time my fortunes are linked up on this side of the House, and if there were an election now I have not the slightest doubt that there would be a repetition of the result of the election of 1917. I see humour and risibility depicted in the faces of my hon. friends from Quebec. I am not at all sure that the result in Quebec would be the same as before.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will the Government have candidates in the three bye-elections which are about to take place?

Mr. MOWAT: The hon. member for North Cape Breton and Victoria (Mr. McKenzie) deems it proper at times to throw the charge, if it be a charge, or sneer, if it be a sneer, across the floor of this House at members on this side as being the Tory party. It may please him to do so, but I can assure the House and the country that such is at present not the case. So when my hon. friend (Mr. Lapointe) from Quebec East, who seems to have arisen to a high place, although I do not know what it is, in the councils of his party, asks me questions about what the Government are going to do, I may say that I

am not in the confidence of the Government, but no doubt they will answer for themselves.

Mr. LAPOINTE: You will see what will happen.

Mr. MOWAT: My point is that the position of my hon. friend who moved this amendment is such that we on this side cannot believe that he really wants that we should support it and bring on an election two years after the last one.

My hon. friend made some remarks which were not at all generous toward the member of the Government (Mr. Blondin) who comes from the province of Quebec. I am surprised at that, because if there is one thing more than another to which we should now direct our attention, our hearts and our heads, it is to bring about a better understanding and rapprochement between the English and the French-speaking peoples. I have no hesitation in saying that because I have always believed it. But I was amazed, and I think we on this side were all very much surprised, to find the ungenerous allusions to the defeat of the Postmaster General in the last election treated with more applause than any other remarks made by the leader of my hon. friends opposite.

Mr. GAUVREAU: We know him all right.

Mr. MOWAT: I ask what my hon. friends mean by that. Do they mean that because they know that Mr. Blondin was defeated by those majorities, the allusion to which defeat caused so much cheering, of 6,000 in Chambly and Verchères and 1,200 in Laurier Outremont—

An hon. MEMBER: You have the wrong county.

Mr. MOWAT: Did they mean that, knowing that the reason that Mr. Blondin was defeated was because he held the very opinions as to the prosecution of the war that the majority of the people of this country support? That was the reason he was defeated. In holding that view, do they mean, because elections on those opinions are profitable in their province, forever to continue this dissension between the peoples of this country? I can attribute no other reason for their action. They must know and I assure them sincerely that we on this side think it is a great calamity that we have not French-Canadian members in the Government of Canada to-day. The reason is that there are no French-Canadian supporters of the Government elected to the