

accept a portfolio in the Administration, and although it was feared that the party might lose a seat by creating a vacancy in a province where they could ill afford it, yet he was appointed to a position in the Cabinet in this House. This was done by gentlemen who have not the same ideas that we have as to the importance of the Senate; who are well known to belong to a party which seems to consider it their duty to advocate the abolition of this House.

HON. MR. ALMON—Hear! hear!

HON. MR. TRUDEL—I do not mean to say that the members of that party in this House are of that opinion, but they belong to a party some of whose leaders consider it their duty to advocate the abolition or transformation in some unknown way of this House. I would not have been astonished if gentlemen who take that view of the importance of this House, and who consequently might very well have assumed the position which the present Government takes, had considered that it was not of very great importance to the Province of Quebec to be represented on the Treasury Benches in the Senate on the ground that this House is perfectly useless. I know, as a matter of fact, that at first that hon. gentleman refused to assume the position because he was not certain whether a Liberal member could be elected to represent his constituency. We regret very deeply in our Province that we have not received from the present Government,—from our own political party, towards whose triumph we have devoted the greater part of our energies and which we have been accustomed to consider as the one party able to do justice to all races in the Dominion, and to insure the prosperity of the whole country—I am sorry we have not received equal justice from them.

The hon. leader of the Government says: "But the group of French-Canadians is so powerful, so united, that it knows perfectly well how to vindicate those rights." If I understand the hon. gentleman properly that means that the Government have decided to continue the course which they have been pursuing for years; that they will continue to refuse us justice, and the only way for us to obtain it is to fight for it in a general elec-

tion. Is that the meaning of the hon. gentleman?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—No, because I said I hoped—if it only were my fortune to occupy the position I do, long enough, or failing that, that my successor would have the happiness of having in the House a French-Canadian colleague: no one would rejoice to see it more than myself.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—As to the utterance of the hon. Minister of Justice, we all know that if there is a man in this whole Dominion, or beyond it, willing to render us justice, he is that man; we never doubted his desire that justice should be done us, and I shall not begin to do so to-day. But, taking the facts as they are, when I consider that we have been vindicating our rights for years and years, and that we are met by some such statement as this: "well, probably you are mistaken; perhaps you do not represent the true feeling of your Province and of your countrymen, for otherwise this feeling would surely find expression somewhere else than in this House," then I am bound to say that if we who are here in the Senate as representing the Province of Quebec, do not represent the feeling of our Province, how are we to ascertain that feeling? Must it not be done by putting the question to the people? And, if that were done, I venture to say that, to-morrow nine-tenths of the counties throughout Quebec would send representatives to Parliament, elected on that ground alone. I do not fear to make that assertion, and with regard to the feeling of the French members in the other House, I would here remind the hon. leader of the Government of this fact, that two or three years ago, when the same question was raised, that hon. gentleman answered as he has done to-day, that it was not the fault of the Government, but that the responsibility for the present state of affairs rested with those members who represented the Province of Quebec in the other House; that those gentlemen had decided not to have French representatives on the Treasury Benches here. The Minister of Justice having made that assertion, and his words are still to be found in the Senate Debates, I would inform the

HON. MR. TRUDEL.