

an unfriendly attitude towards my hon. friend the leader of the Conservative party in the other House. I may state at once that these newspaper references are in the main correct, and that I have felt it my duty, my unpleasant duty, to withdraw my allegiance from the present leader of the Conservative party in Canada. Late last month I received a letter from my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) notifying me that a caucus of the Conservative party was to be held during the first week of the session and that he hoped to see me as a senator, and a member of the party, at that caucus. I immediately replied to him in a short note saying in substance that I disapproved so strongly of certain measures which had received the assent of the caucus last year, and of the action of the party in regard to those measures, as well as of his own action as its leader, that my position hereafter would be that of an independent Liberal Conservative member of the Senate, free from any party ties or party allegiance. That is the position, I desire it to be understood, which I now hold as a member of this House.

I must say that the ostensible reason given for my withdrawal of my allegiance to Mr. Borden's leadership did not include all my reasons for my action in that respect. For some time past, I have been dissatisfied with Mr. Borden's leadership and especially since the last general election—since the introduction into the House of Commons of a new element in the Liberal Conservative party which, to my mind, has too largely dominated the action of the party organization in parliament and elsewhere.

Since the assumption of the leadership of the Liberal Conservative party by Mr. Borden I have felt that the party in this House have not been treated with the courtesy or consideration to which it was entitled, and that that state of affairs has been growing worse from day to day for several years past, and has been accentuated lately by the cool disposition of the party in the House of Commons towards their friends in the Senate since the reappearance—I will say it plainly—of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster in the House of Commons, and who, playing the role of a village politician, has exposed his animus lately in open insults and sneers at the Senate on a public platform in the province of Ontario. Seeing, as

I could not help seeing, that the leadership of the party, and the party itself was being dominated by an influence that I at any rate am not willing to follow, it may, perhaps, have made me more inclined to take exception to particular acts of Mr. Borden, and perhaps view some of them with more severity than they deserve.

But when I recollect the attitude of different leaders of the Liberal Conservative party in the past towards their friends in this House; when I recollect the attitude of Sir John Macdonald, of Sir Charles Tupper, of Sir Mackenzie Bowell and of Sir John Thompson—when I recollect the consideration the Liberal Conservative party in this House invariably received from such leaders while we had the happiness of having them at the head of our party, I cannot but feel some dissatisfaction that under a man of yesterday we should receive such very different treatment. I have often heard Sir John Macdonald say that he did not wish to have a caucus without having his friends in the Senate fairly represented; and in his great battles for power, and for the retention of power, he has more than once declared that unless his friends in the Senate stood by him he would give up the fight. A very different doctrine prevails to-day, and I should infer that it is the intention of the Liberal Conservative party, when the Senate loses power, to give effective service to it as a legislative body, to adopt perhaps the role which our friends on the other side adopted towards this House, of abuse and vilification when they were in the minority, of which I hope some of them have had time to repent. It appears as if something of the same policy is intended to be resorted to by the Liberal Conservative party in the future, now that they think perhaps the Senate will be a good and popular object of abuse. I had hoped that the futility and unwisdom of such a course had been sufficiently verified to deter them from any such action; but appearances, under Mr. Foster's tutelage, are rather against them.

I said that I was gratified to have the opportunity given me to offer these remarks by the observations of the leader of the opposition yesterday and by the references to-day, of the Secretary of State to the Indemnity Act and the Pension Act. I was rather pleased to find that without appearing to go out of my way I might in con-