

black eyes, a bruised body and a generally battered up appearance. His wife said to him: "What is the matter?" and he laconically replied: "Thim Frinch is improving." In the province of Quebec the Conservative party is improving. In 1917 we had three members. We had not a single one in 1921. We have now four in this House; but more than that, we have increased the popular vote for Conservative candidates in that province by about one hundred thousand.

Mr. POWER: Who got the black eye?

Mr. WHITE (Mount Royal): If the hon. gentleman wishes to know, I think it was the late member for North York. The Minister of Justice pronounced a fulsome eulogy upon his leader, informing the House that he possessed the confidence of the Liberal party in greater degree than ever before, and I noticed in the press that at a caucus of that party a resolution of confidence in their leader was passed. A late member of the government—I was going to say a member of the late government, but a late member of the government, Mr. Marler, formerly of St. Lawrence-St. George, Montreal, delivered a speech in the Reform Club of Montreal on New Year's day when he out-Heroded Herod by declaring that when Mr. Mackenzie King had finished his public career, he would go down in history as the greatest Prime Minister Canada had ever had. Poor old Sir Wilfrid Laurier! If his shade had been present in that Reform Club on that New Year's Day it might well have exclaimed in the language of Rip Van Winkle when he came down from the Catskills after his long sleep and found himself unrecognized, unknown, his name not even a memory in his native village; "My God, how soon are we forgot."

Now, Sir, I fear that the quotation I gave from Addison might fittingly be applied to myself in the rather rambling remarks I have made. But I come back to the whole pith and point and core of the amendment, namely, that the position of the government is a violation of constitutional principles and of parliamentary practice. And it is upon that point and that point only that this division is to take place. You have doubtless read, Mr. Speaker, a recent book written by Lord Ullswater, better known as the Right Hon. James W. Lowther, for more than fifteen years Speaker of the British House of Commons, who was gracious enough to come to Canada to present to this chamber the chair which you, Sir, so admirably adorn by your courtly manner, your fine ability and your strict impartiality. Lord Ullswater's book en-

titled "Commentaries of a Speaker" is interspersed with amusing anecdotes, one of which it seems to me is very pertinent to the situation of at least two parties in this House. It refers to an advertisement which appeared in the lost column of a London newspaper and which ran like this: 'Lost—a spaniel dog called "Ben"; answers reluctantly to "Damn you, come here."' "

I hasten, Mr. Speaker, lest I offend the decorum and proprieties of this House, to withdraw the strong expletive and substitute the milder term "dang," even at the risk of weakening the point of Lord Ullswater's story. As I read it, however, the analogy occurred to me between this government and the Progressive party, who actually and absolutely dominate the ministry, and without whose support the gentlemen on the treasury benches cannot carry through this House any important measure whatever, and Ben and his master. Their position towards the Progressive party is that of the abject animal called Ben towards his master, and I think it not inappropriate that this government should be termed the "Ben" government and go down in history as such.

Hon. E. M. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough, Minister of National Defence): We have just listened to a very interesting address from a veteran in the political life of this country (Mr. White, Mount Royal), and I desire on behalf of those who sit on your right, Mr. Speaker, to welcome the distinguished gentleman once more to this parliament, which he adorned in other days by his position and ability. I am sorry that my hon. friend, while he indulged in a good deal of denunciation, saw fit in his speech to evade altogether the real question at issue in this particular amendment. He promised that he would lift the veil and let us know what was going on in Quebec in connection with the position of the Conservative party, and that would have been a very interesting story had he gone into it and related all the events of the last election. We should all have been pleased to know where Mr. Patenaude stood in relation to the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Meighen) who leads the party opposite, and where the right hon. gentleman himself stood in relation to Mr. Patenaude; and it would have been more interesting still if my hon. friend who has just taken his seat had gone further and told us where he personally stood in relation to both these gentlemen. I happen to have under my hand a newspaper report of a meeting during which that question was asked our distinguished friend. The meeting in ques-