

utterances of gentlemen in the province of Quebec who have been opposed to his naval policy, and who, it is perfectly true, were as much opposed to some of my views in the matter as they were to the views of the right hon. gentleman. A very severe arraignment was made of these gentlemen at the commencement of the last session. My right hon. friend was foremost to denounce them, and an hon. gentleman who is now out of public life (a reference to whom I make now only because it is necessary for the purpose of my argument), who occupied the position of Minister of Marine (Mr. Brodeur) denounced them also in unmeasured terms. They referred to their utterances, they quoted them, and the gravamen of the whole charge was summed up at the end in a certain cartoon which as it was alleged had been used in a journal in the province of Quebec that was the recognized organ of the Nationalists. The House was astounded two days afterwards to discover that this very cartoon had been copied by this wicked Nationalist paper from the organ of the right hon. gentleman himself, and if any hon. gentleman in this House desires to verify what I state he may refer to the columns of 'Le Canada,' of the 26th day of September, 1904, when a certain issue had been raised in some parts of this country in regard to the action of the government respecting Lord Dundonald. Under these circumstances I do not think it lies very well in the mouth of the right hon. gentleman to make this the subject of controversial debate. I would suggest to him the old proverb: 'Physician heal thyself,' before he undertakes to cast any aspersion upon any other hon. gentleman.

I think I have touched almost every point that the right hon. gentleman has taken up in the course of his speech. Let me only say in conclusion, that I am very glad indeed that he has screwed his courage up to the sticking point of proposing this motion. It is conceived much in the same spirit as the right hon. gentleman displayed on the first day of this session, and I shall only invite the House to treat it in the same summary manner as the country treated the proposals of the right hon. gentleman with respect to the reciprocal trade arrangement proposed in this parliament during the last session, to dismiss it from notice as inspired not by any desire to conserve or advance the public interest of this country, but as a motion put forward solely with a view to excite supposed dissensions which do not exist, and in that way to conduce to the advantage of the political fortunes of my right hon friend which unfortunately for him and his party have been reduced to a very low ebb indeed by the event which took place on the 21st day of September last.

Mr. HUGH GUTHRIE (South Wellington). Mr. Speaker, whatever opinion one may entertain of the remarks of the hon. gentleman who now has the honour of leading this House, one must surmise in the first place that his temper is not as genial as we might expect from a man who suddenly has been elevated to a very high place of power and prominence in this great country. It was noticeable on the day this House opened that something was wrong.

Some HON. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. GUTHRIE. After an experience of twelve sessions with my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) in this House, I do not believe that I ever saw him so irritated, notwithstanding that he should have been genial, smiling and bland. It is all very well for him to-day to protest that there is no friction in his Cabinet and that all is peace and harmony, but his own discomposure inclines one to conclude that even at this early date everything is not so happy as he would have us think. There can be no doubt, as the Prime Minister has said, that the personnel of the Cabinet may not satisfy the leader of the opposition, but a more serious question is: does it satisfy all the supporters of the right hon. gentleman himself. I need only refer to prominent Conservative papers and to the speeches of Conservative public men to prove that all is not satisfaction, and that the Prime Minister has fallen very far short of satisfying even his own followers. It may be said it is none of my business, but I hold that every elector of this Dominion has a perfect right to express himself freely upon the personnel of the Cabinet or upon any individual member of it. I shall not be going beyond the limits of proper criticism, if I state a few reasons why I think there is not entire harmony around the Council Board. There is no doubt considerable disappointment on this side of the House, but there is a good deal on the other side too, and that which impresses the on-looker most profoundly is the glaring evidence that the Prime Minister has not been a free agent in the selection of his Ministers, and that he has been shackled in some way, the particulars of which may never come to light, but the evidence of which is very apparent. There is no doubt in the world that the personnel of the Cabinet surrounding the Prime Minister is not the result of his own choice. They have come to the council of the nation not by any process of natural selection; they are the work of the political highwaymen who say: stand and deliver. And the Prime Minister instead of resisting as we might hope he would have, has held up his hands and delivered. Will any hon. gentleman on the opposite side; will the Prime Minister himself say that the occupant of the high