

Hon. Mr. POWER—I cannot express an opinion about a policy which has not been enunciated.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I am surprised to hear him say that. The policy of his leader has been enunciated on a dozen different platforms, namely, the appointment of a commission. He never told us, however, what he proposed the commission should do.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Is not the hon. Senator from Ottawa as much the representative of the liberal party in this House as Mr. Laurier is in the House of Commons? Did not the hon. the first minister delay making his statement to-day until the Senator from Ottawa was in his seat? What was his intention in doing so? It was because he thought the leader of the opposition in this House was the proper person to reply, and I hold that I was perfectly justified when I asked the hon. gentleman if he was in favour of remedial legislation. My reason for doing so was that I have heard (although I do not altogether give credit to the report) that Mr. Laurier is desirous of shirking the question and that it is his intention to promulgate a new policy to the effect that an inquiry should be made as to whether the judgment of the Imperial Privy Council was right or wrong, and that there should be a commission to investigate the state of affairs in Manitoba. I think it was perfectly legitimate to ask the hon. leader of the opposition in this House if he was speaking as the leader of his party. It took him fully two minutes to reply, and he only did so after consultation with another member of the House. He then said that what he had stated was not the policy of the party but merely his own individual opinion.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—I have never heard any one say that it was the intention of the leader of the opposition to shirk this question. I have heard him speak in many places, and everywhere he has said plainly that he was fully prepared to do what is just and fair. I may further say that I am fully in accord with his policy. I share his opinions, and can give him my unqualified support. I do not consider that it is fair

to state that the leader of the opposition intends to shirk the question. To my mind he has done nothing to justify such a statement; and when the remedial measure is brought before parliament, it will then be seen that he is ready to give it his support if it is in accordance with his views. To say that he has no policy is most inaccurate, and I protest against such a statement. There is evidently a motive for making it, and I know what that motive is. If we read what Mr. Laurier has said on the platform and what he said in the House last session, we must form a very different conclusion. He has distinctly stated that he is prepared to do justice.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—After the commission reports or before?

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—I am not prepared to say as to the dates, but I know he is still of the same opinion.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—I do not attack Mr. Laurier, but I must say that what I have stated I believe to be his own expression. I think he would be quite desirous of seeing the question settled, but, after all, the method of settling it is very plain. The government is bringing in legislation which must have the approval of the whole of Lower Canada. If Mr. Laurier had shown his approval of such a course the matter would have been all right.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—When the matter is before the House he will deal with it.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Now Mr. Laurier says it will have to be the subject of a commission.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—No, he does not say so. Mr. Laurier thinks that the best way of settling that burning question would be by a commission, but he is prepared to give his support to any measure which would secure justice to the minority in Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Oh, well, of course, if the hon. gentleman says that, I will not pursue the subject further.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—He does not say that because he wishes to see what will be the outcome of the statement made in the