

treatment of his French supporters they will see that they will be neglected the moment their services are no longer necessary? One would think that our protest for years past would force the Government to do us justice—that our claims would receive some consideration at their hands, that our constitutional rights would be left to us; but no, Quebec must be crushed and her influence annihilated.

Some two years ago we heard it declared that the true interpretation of the Constitution—was that one French member should have a seat on the Treasury Benches of the Senate. Now, if that is the law of the land, have we not a right to expect that there should be one of us sitting there ready to understand and to answer all those who are not acquainted with the English language, and so give effect to that clause of the Constitution which states that the French language shall be on equal terms with the English in this Chamber? That right was acknowledged 24 months ago, and yet it has not been conceded. I feel that this is a hard case, and I cannot allow it to pass without comment. It is true that His Excellency the Governor-General is reported to have uttered, some few days ago in Toronto, words which would lead us to believe that he himself holds an opinion which is contrary to our contention. But, gentlemen, I must believe that His Excellency never considered our position in this country, or he would never have committed himself to such views. I have too much confidence in the new representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty in this Dominion to think otherwise. The Hon. Minister of Justice has declared, and I have reasons for believing it is so, that he himself would be ready, in the interests of justice, to give us that which we ask, believing, as he has often admitted, that the French minority had a constitutional right to have one of their nationality occupying a seat on the Treasury Benches in this Senate. When I speak on this question, I attack the Government as a Government: I do not attack the Minister of Justice in particular. He of course has a share of the responsibility, but I must give him credit for his willingness to do whatever is right. I must give him credit for the courage, the honesty, he showed in denouncing his own leader (Sir John) when

he acknowledges the justice of our claim. Now, gentlemen, has there been an opportunity since 1880 when justice might have been done to us? I say there was when Mr. Mousseau left the Government. Yet it was not done, and why? As I have told you, when Mr. Mousseau entered the Cabinet he was nothing else than a "*locum tenens*." The situation had been promised to another gentleman who then occupied a high position in the Province of Quebec, and that gentleman is now a member of the Cabinet here. This I predicted, and now it is *un fait accompli*. Who was that gentleman whom Sir John, putting aside the constitutional right of Quebec, took to replace Mr. Mousseau? Mr. Chapleau, the same gentleman who has done so much towards ruining the Province of Quebec, that her best men now refuse to undertake the task of forming a government. Had Mr. Chapleau been actuated by a sense of duty: had he any sense of patriotism in his heart, ought he not to have declined and refused to join this Government until the claims of Quebec were attended to, like the Morins, the Lafontaines and the Cartiers have done in the past? Who does not know all the story of Quebec's shame? Has not the public press made it known to all the world? And yet last year I was almost brutally attacked because I dared to speak honestly of an absent, and, it was alleged, sick and, perhaps, dying man, who, however, was well enough to appear in Parliament a few days afterwards. I was accused of attacking a sick man, of whose death we might hear of at any time. yet, the next day this dying man appeared in Ottawa in good enough health to laugh with his friends at the rumors circulated about him. Who has not been told by the newspapers of the injuries that gentleman inflicted on Quebec? It is well known that that Province is now burdened by a debt of \$19,000,000, that it has been looking for money to pay the balance of interest of that debt, which the Federal Subsidy was not sufficient to pay some 12 months ago. The world knows that now since the press has published it abroad. And the man who did all that evil and who knew well he would have been defeated had he gone back to the Local Legislature, resigned in Quebec and was received by Sir John in