

as before now has been talked of in another place, and which might create an apprehension in the country, at a moment, when it is most important that our institutions should be helped by capital from abroad, and where every encouragement should be given to capitalists in this country. I do hope it will be clearly explained and put forth that nothing is intended to damage the stability of the banking institutions by any change in the acts applying to them.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.—It is not my intention to take up the time of this hon. House in discussing the Address, for the very good reason that I fail to see anything in it which could prevent any hon. member of this Senate from giving it his approval. Nay, the many gratifying announcements which are therein made by His Excellency are such that I am sure the great majority of hon. gentlemen in this Chamber will only be too happy to congratulate the Government of the day on the auspicious circumstances under which this Parliament begins its labours. The prosperity of all our industries, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial, is such that we may fairly congratulate ourselves and congratulate the whole country on the success of the past legislation of Parliament. Having said so much as to the general policy of the Government I regret that I consider it my duty not to allow this occasion to pass without alluding to many of the arbitrary acts of the Government, and without complaining of the repeated injustices done to my native province during last Parliament, injustices which, it seems, the Government has decided to continue.

Since Confederation it has been agreed that the Speakers of both Houses should not belong to the same nationality and that a new man should be selected to occupy the Chair in each House at the beginning of every Parliament; such also has been the practice in the past and such even is the case this year in the Commons where Mr. Blanchet, the late Speaker, has been replaced by Mr. Kirkpatrick. Not so in the Senate, where, for the first time, the same Speaker is continued in office.

Were it not a matter of precedent and of equal justice, and above all, were it not for the treatment which the French minority in this House have received at the hands of the Government, no one would

have thought of complaining, since there is no gentleman on the floor of this House whose selection to occupy the Chair could have given more satisfaction to the minority, and, no doubt to the whole House, than you, Mr. Speaker. But when one recalls to mind how the minority have been ignored since the advent of the present Government to office, it cannot be denied that there are good reasons to complain.

We all know that there are political necessities, and it was because of such a plea, that in 1879, after having complained of the manner in which the Administration had been formed in October, 1878, the French minority in the Senate submitted to *les faits accomplis* and accepted the excuse given by the hon. leader of this House, (Sir Alexander Campbell) feeling confident that their case would be attended to at the first opportunity.

This occasion soon presented itself; the Hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Baby) was made a Judge, but no French Senator was called upon to enter the Cabinet, and so the French population of the Dominion failed to receive justice at the hands of the Government. A protest was entered at the next meeting of Parliament, and the minority in this Chamber submitted again. Later on, the Hon. Senator for the division of *Mille Isles*, (Mr. Masson) then a member of the Cabinet, having resigned his seat in the administration, a good opportunity was then offered to the Premier to fulfill the *quasi* promises the Government made in 1879, since the gentleman who had received promises in 1878 could not leave the high position he held in the Province of Quebec, to join the Federal Government. But no; the Premier of the Dominion, who had then a strong majority in Ontario at his back, cared very little to please his old supporters from Quebec, those who had fought the battles of the country under his leadership and who had given him that support without which he could not have succeeded. No French Senator was invited to enter the Administration, but another gentleman from the Commons (Mr. Mousseau) was called and occupied the vacant seat in the Cabinet as the *locum tenens* of the hon. gentleman it was reserved for.

Later on, the popularity of the Quebec Government being evidently broken down,