

whole of the Province of Quebec; but were I here only to represent those who had the courage to stand up and vote for the Government at the last election, I think I would have reason enough to be here.

My honourable friend from De Lorimier likes to refer to the honourable member for Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien). He has a fine way of making people believe that he is in the secrets of those who sit on this side of the House; that he knows all that is going on. He mentioned the honourable Senator from Montarville the other day as the prophet of the fall of this Government. But I know one thing: on the very eve of the day on which the honourable senator for Montarville was going to address this Senate on the question of conscription, sticks of dynamite were placed around his house. That is a fine way to educate people to the faith of Liberalism! My honourable friend spoke of the system of Trotsky and Lenine, but Trotsky and Lenine might have learned something from my friend's friend during the elections of 1917. It was a shame to see intelligent, learned, responsible men, men who knew they were hurting their province and the good name of their people, but were not manly enough to face the situation and tell our fine, intelligent, honest, brave people of the Province of Quebec what their duty was.

This is the first opportunity I have to thank my honourable friend for having been kind enough to appear with me in Montreal when I started a recruiting campaign. We were unfortunate: we did not succeed. I admit that I was the object of the hatred that seemed to prevail among a certain crowd of young men in the upper part of the hall. It is true that the honourable gentleman made quite a good speech there. He did not go so far as his leader, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who said that we were in this war to the last cent and the last man; but on the whole he said it was not a bad thing to do this for France, or something to that effect. It is not with the intention of casting any reproach upon the honourable gentleman that I mention this fact; but the point that I want to make is this, that that very night the few persons who prevented the meeting from going on were members of an organized political club. There were in the hall many thousands of people who were anxious to hear both sides of the question; but the Liberal organization had decreed that no men ought to be heard in the Province of Quebec who were trying to ex-

plain the questions of the hour. We were not allowed to speak. And I say this, that history will show that if the Liberal party had consented to play its part fairly, the province which would have led in the application of military service would have been my province. It is too bad to have to say that I personally know the names of men of high standing, Liberals, some honourable gentlemen, who were advising young men anxious to enlist not to make fools of themselves, but to stay at home. Speakers who appeared on the hustings were threatened with death.

As an instance of this, the editor of *L'Evenement*, of Quebec, was surrounded by a mob when he persisted in trying to address a meeting, and he escaped lynching only by a hair's breadth—under the smile of the present Prime Minister of the province of Quebec. Honourable gentlemen, the people of the province of Quebec have a tremendous reserve of calm patience, common sense and coolness. I wonder whether in any other province, under similar circumstances, the people could have stood the test as well as my people did.

I said I would not speak very long. I wanted to tell my honourable friend in the first place that he cannot make us believe that he is in any sense authorized to speak for the province of Quebec. Let that be clearly understood for the future. In the second place I wanted to tell him that when I accepted a cabinet position I did so primarily in order to represent in the cabinet those who voted for the Government. Remember, honourable gentlemen, there were hundreds of thousands of French Canadians who voted for the Government in spite of everything. And, if you admit that those people have a right to be represented here, I wonder who is the more qualified to represent them—this honourable gentleman or myself.

There is another point. From Lafontaine and Morin to Cartier and Laurier there has been only one creed: it is that isolation means death for the province of Quebec. I believe in that creed. Were I alone in the province of Quebec in believing in it, I would stand alone till death. But there are hundreds of thousands; not only the immense majority, but the entire population of Quebec believe in it. I think that in being in the Cabinet I am representing those people.

Why does the honourable gentleman look upon me with such contempt? Why does he address me with such insults? Is it because he is my senior in age and in this