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Mr. Monk on the State of the Party.

IT was well known in the inner political circles a month ago that Mr. F. D. Monk, the federal Conservative leader in the province of Quebec, had written a letter to Mr. R. L. Borden, the leader in the Dominion, announcing that he would vacate the post he occupied as leader in the province of Quebec. This has now been verified by the publication of the letter which is dated Jan. 17. In it Mr. Monk states that the task of directing the Opposition in Quebec is a difficult one, "that there is disunion and that certain elements of the party were not in sympathy with him but on the contrary were hostile. He felt, therefore, that he could make himself more useful in the ranks of the party but rather ominously concludes his letter with the statement that he "should apply himself to the defence of the interests of his electors who were entitled to all his consideration. This would seem to mean that Mr. Monk will devote himself to the electors of the county of Jacques Cartier which

he represents in the House and will take no further part in the provincial organization where he found Mr. Graham of the Star and Mr. Tarte of La Patrie banded together against him. Mr. Monk occupies the same position in the province of Quebec in relation to the Conservative party that Mr. Laurier did when Mr. Alexander Mackenzie was the leader of the Opposition and it will be a rather hard task on the leader of the Opposition to select from among a party whose leader says is disunited another leader who will unite the varying factions. It is not unlikely that Mr. Borden, who is now sojourning for his health down at Virginia Springs, will not approach the task at all but refrain from making any appointment, in which case Mr. Tarte will make a gallant attempt to assume the position by virtue of activity and experience. In that event it is certain that if Mr. Tarte put his nose into the county of Jacques Cartier it would be put out of joint very speedily.