

have. The other day, in New Brunswick, Mr. Foster, surrounded, besieged, buttonholed, suffocated, uttered a cry of despair. "This is a damnable system." I agree with him. It is a damnable system, when damnable administered. But, the remedy is at hand, and Mr. Foster would have no difficulty if he adopted it.

APPOINTMENTS BY MERIT.

I remember, very long ago, when Mr. Foster was in opposition, he stated that all appointments ought to be made on merit. If appointments are made by merit, as they were under the previous Government, Mr. Foster's days and the days of his colleagues would be no longer damnable, but would be as serene as our days were.

Mr. Foster, however, is a very good preacher, but I am afraid that he will not practice as well as he preaches, and that he will continue to say "This is a damnable system," but he will not have the courage to put an end to it.

NAVAL POLICY.

There is, perhaps, another question to which I should draw your attention for a moment, simply for the novelty of the thing. I refer to the naval question. The novelty of the thing I say, for previous to the last election nothing else was talked of by the Conservative party in this province, now they are as dumb as fish. It was not the trade question that was discussed before the people of the Province of Quebec during the campaign. It was the naval question.

Three years ago I was Prime Minister. We had the reins of government in our own hands. We brought before the House of Commons a resolution to the effect that Canada having reached the status she has reached—the status of a nation—should assume all the duties and all the responsibilities of a nation. Now, the duties and the responsibilities of a nation are to take care of its own defense by land and sea. That resolution was unanimously adopted in the House of Commons.