

present leader of the government, and as it was understood in the past in England by all statesmen except the remnants of the old Tory party which had conducted imperial affairs in such a way as to lose from the British empire its splendid possessions in the eighteenth century—the descendants of the old Tory party of Lord North and Grenville—we who have such principles have the right to organize, form leagues, publish newspapers and do our best to enlighten the Canadian people on the question from our point of view, as much as the hon. member from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), the hon. member for St. Mary's (Hon. Mr. Tarte) or any other member of this House has the right to follow Mr. Chamberlain's ideas and endeavour to have them carried out. No man who is worthy of a seat in this House, who is worthy to call himself a representative of the Canadian people, should brand as disloyal those men who have ideas opposed to his own, or rather opposed to those ideas which he supposes will bring him votes.

Sir, I have been accused of raising a race agitation. From the beginning of the Boer war to this moment I have never asked a voter in the province of Quebec to vote this way or that way because he was of French origin. What I have said in the province of Quebec and what I have repeated in the city of Toronto, is that we, being Canadians, could not view these problems of imperial policy with the same eyes as those who were born in the old countries of Europe; that we have only one home and that this home is Canada; and that we viewed all these problems in the light of our Canadian citizenship. This is what I have said in Montreal and in Quebec, as well as in the city of Toronto, during the South African war and up to this moment, and what I will go on repeating, no matter what accusations may be made against me by members from the province of Quebec, who themselves raise racial agitations in that province, but once they touch the borders of Ontario, feel scandalized because a French Canadian says that a million and a half of Canadian citizens, who when in a majority preserved this country for the British crown, should not now, when they are in a minority, be trampled upon. What I have said in Montreal, in Toronto and elsewhere, is that this is a British country—yes, but how and why? It is because the French Canadians, at a time when the British citizens of Canada formed only a handful of its population, gave their pledge of honour that they would remain faithful to the British crown, and have maintained that pledge and preserved the integrity of the British empire. Canada is a British country, but it is Canadian before it is British as it is Canadian before it is French; and we being ready every day of our lives to yield our preferences for the benefit of the whole country,

being in the minority have a right to say: You are now in the majority, but surely you are worthy representatives of that nation of which it has been said that British fair-play is the greatest foundation of justice, and you should not forget what we did when we were in the majority. What I have said and will continue to say, either in this House or elsewhere, is that this country should be ruled according to the ideals of the people of Canada; that this country is composed of two races and nationalities which have become united to each other under one flag and one system of government, and that it is impossible to have one national sentiment in this country until we acknowledge that these two races and nationalities exist. But once it is acknowledged that Canadian soil, Canadian sentiment and Canadian patriotism are broad enough for two races and nationalities, do not be afraid of the humble movement of myself and those young men of the National League in the province of Quebec. The feeling we are trying to develop is not one of animosity on the part of the French Canadian against the English Canadian, but a feeling of pride and love for this country of ours, a feeling that Canada is broad enough and great enough and rich enough for Canadians of all classes; and a feeling that before our country has grown to its maturity we have no right to ask the people of Canada to yield up a part of their wealth, their population, their trade, their liberties, even to help Great Britain or the empire, because the responsibility we have is the responsibility of developing Canada. Let the people in Great Britain, in Australia, in South Africa do their duty by their own country as we are doing our duty by ours, and the empire will be in safer hands than it will be if placed in the hands of men who are trying to develop a sense of false pride in the empire, and trying to do away with that feeling of attachment to one's own country which is the strongest foundation for the development of a nation.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side may at least congratulate the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Bourassa) for the bravery he has displayed in taking part at all in this debate. We could hardly expect that any of the ministers would venture to say anything on the present occasion. Surely it could not be expected that the Minister of Railways (Hon. Mr. Emmer-son) in his present dejected frame of mind could have a word to say. The recollection must be still rankling in his mind of his dismal failure, when, a short time ago, after he had gone, flushed with all the power and influence of a Minister of the Crown, into a campaign in the important city of St. John, he received notice from the people of that great city that they thought