

are in the prime of their youth, and that so far, not only in Canada, but in the whole world of pedagogy, no adequate system has yet been devised for developing in children, to the extent of which it could be developed, this wonderful aptitude which disappears with age. Ever since it has been my privilege to sit in this honourable assembly I have been impressed by the dignified way in which its proceedings have been carried on, and I am sure that I shall disappoint those who think that I rise to-night in a spirit of revenge for any attack that may have been directed personally at me. The best policy is to try to forget and forgive, but certain matters have been placed before this House in words of bitterness which, in spite of my reluctance to deal with them, I feel it my duty to present in their true light.

The first one is the self-given mandate which my honourable friend from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) seems to have been assuming. For the last three years I have seen him here talking as the mouth-piece, the authorized mandatory, for the province of Quebec. Any such impression is contrary to the fact. My honourable friend has not the least authority to speak for a single man in the province of Quebec. When the honourable gentleman was looking down at me with his splendid contempt—his kingly contempt for the poor little thing that he thinks I am—I was surveying him and trying to find in his life any reason why he is here. No one in the province of Quebec ever knew of any reason for his being here. He never was elected—not only was he never elected, but he never ran, nor was he ever offered the honour of being a candidate, in any constituency. A certain politician used to say that he could have his own horse chosen as a candidate. Well, as a matter of fact, my honourable friend never was a candidate anywhere in the province of Quebec. He is a fighter only here from his seat between these thick walls. He is not known in the province of Quebec. This is not an insult, but a real, hard fact. He had never been known before he was made a Senator. I should like to find someone in Montreal who would tell me that he is a lawyer of any competency or prominence. Judging from his speeches, he cannot have great ability before the courts, where logic counts for something. He has become a very powerful, rich man; I am a poor man: is it for that reason that he looks at me with contempt? I do not know; but let me tell

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN.

him that he has no mandate to speak here for the province of Quebec, but that I know, and maybe some of the honourable gentlemen around him know, as a large proportion of the people know, that he has not even a mandate to speak for his own party. The real fact is, honourable gentlemen, that this gentleman, who has presumed to have a mandate to speak for the province of Quebec, is among the rank and file of his own party the most execrated man on earth. If the honourable gentleman wants to contradict what I say, let him go outside, and ask the members of the House of Commons to sign a certificate for him.

I dislike to say what I am saying, honourable gentlemen, but for three years I have been sitting here not uttering a word, whilst the honourable gentleman was taking advantage of my silence, thinking that he had a sneaking dog to deal with, as he once called me. I waited and waited, thinking that the day might come when he would see that he had no justification for acting in that way and mend his ways. But apparently the honourable gentleman has to fight a bulldog before he learns that a dog will defend himself.

That is not all. The honourable gentleman asks what reason I have for being in the Cabinet to represent my province. I will tell him in a few words. In a county where I had been twice elected, after a very hard fight in which I fought single-handed, I was the third time elected by acclamation. It happened under most extraordinary circumstances which I will explain in a moment. The honourable member who spoke before me spoke the truth: I was elected in the face of menaces and threats of the use of dynamite, on advice given by the leaders of the Liberal organization, to set fire to the places of those who had the audacity to stand for the Government. In the face of all that, honourable gentlemen, I am proud to say that 300 fathers of families exposed the lives of their dear ones to come and vote for me; that is, 300 votes more than the honourable gentleman ever got in his life or ever will get. At the same time, I was running in the constituency of Laurier-Outremont, and there, I think I am pretty safe in saying I received at least 5,000 votes; that is, 5,000 votes more than the honourable gentleman will ever be able to get. Still he asks me by what right I am here speaking in the name of the Province of Quebec? Well, honourable gentlemen, I never claimed to have any mandate to speak here for the