

ples for any government pap or government subsidies whatever. But, if there is any reptile press in this country, it belongs to the side where the Prime Minister is, and where his Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) and his Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) and his Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) care for the faithful around the camp fires.

Mr. McMULLEN. Nonsense.

Mr. FOSTER. From the doleful sound I hear, I imagine that my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) is hungry.

Mr. McMULLEN. Not half as much as you are.

Mr. FOSTER. The groan of my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) sounds very much like the pangs of a very hungry man. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to the reptile press or to any press to substantiate my charge, that the accusation is forced against the Liberal-Conservative party; that the whole agitation that is being carried on in reference to this matter is chiefly due to the race cry which the Liberal-Conservatives are striving to raise. I will take perhaps higher authority. I will take the words of a man who stands on the press; a man who owns one of the greatest organs in this country; a man who commenced his cabinet ministership with the idea that he could be an editor over his own name and a cabinet minister as well. I will take the words of a man who thought that as a cabinet minister he could be responsible for what he said as a cabinet minister, and that then he could indite articles on public policy in his own paper signed by his own name and not be held responsible for them. However, he was very quickly called down by his colleagues in that respect—it was inconvenient to say the least of it. But the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has just as surely his personal organ now as he had then, and on matters of public policy it reflects the sentiments of my hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) and its writings on these public questions are without doubt indicted and censored before they get publication in the columns of that paper. Now, what does this hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) say? In his celebrated speech at St. Vincent de Paul, he said:

They (the Liberal-Conservatives) decided long ago to raise the question of race.

Where is the proof? My hon. friend (Mr. Tarte) is going to speak in the course of this debate.

Mr. TARTE. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. He is not now before an admiring coterie of friends under the shadow of St. Vincent de Paul. He is here as a minister of the Crown, and as a minister of the Crown I tax him for having made that allegation—most dastardly, if it be not true, and, coming from a cabinet

minister, most mischievous, even if it were true—most mischievous, making it with his own words on his own responsibility as a minister of the Crown and making the whole government responsible for the charge. I want him (Mr. Tarte) to give the proof by which and upon which he declares, that the Liberal-Conservatives decided long ago to raise the question of race. What further did he say? Listen to this from the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte):

There are writers in the pay of Sir Charles Tupper who call us an inferior race, who threaten to crush us by the force of arms if they do not get rid by the force of the ballot, of the first French Canadian Prime Minister.

That is high politics—for a member of the Liberal cabinet to make an assertion of that kind, to make it when he did, to make it for the purpose and the only purpose for which he did—as though to say that Sir Charles Tupper employed and paid men to raise a crusade against the French Canadian people as an inferior race in order to get rid of a French Canadian as Prime Minister. I ask my hon. friend to make good that word, and to make it good by proof, or to stand disgraced before his colleagues. My hon. friend is not in the Parliament House at Quebec, nor even on the outside of it. My hon. friend is not before a chosen band of his own stripe. My hon. friend is where he is a sworn privy-councillor; he is bound to state the truth before his Queen and country; and when he makes a statement like that, which is a venturesome, a bold, a most grave and important statement, he shall not go out of this House this session until he proves that statement or abandons it disowned and disgraced. I quite understand that our hon. friends opposite know that they are playing at government. They laugh over these things. Why, Sir, last night, when my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, was praising a gift of unparalleled benevolence, by which some gentleman through him, unfortunately, for appreciation on that side of the House, did the most munificent thing of securing for the soldiers of the first contingent insurance to the amount of \$1,000,000, so that, as he explained, if a man died within thirty days of battle or was killed in battle, his heir would get \$1,000, if he were maimed in certain members he would get \$1,000, and if maimed in others he would get \$500, there was a wild laugh from some gentlemen on the other side of the House.

An hon. MEMBER. A number of them.

Mr. FOSTER. If it had been an outside audience, the thought that flashed through my mind was: was that the laugh of a fool or a fiend? My right hon. friend may smile over it; but that mother of the Canadian boy who has gone out to the Transvaal with his mother's prayers about him to