

When these gentlemen will arrest a British subject for having disobeyed the Act, they will send him to Bordeaux; but, first, they will bring him before the magistrate, and the prisoner relying on the constitution, will appeal to the court. He will say: Let them show in virtue of what principle I have been arrested and imprisoned. If the law invoked against me were constitutional the authority entrusted with the duty of applying it would say so, and this man will be told: Sir, you are free this legislation is void even should the Prime Minister and all his fellow workers, even should the Premier and all the other councillors of His Majesty declare our law is valid, the Courts whose duty it is to carry it out would hold otherwise.

The hon. Minister of Justice has been a Judge of the Superior Court, and he knows that I am right—Should I go before him with a man arrested in virtue of an unconstitutional law, the hon. minister would be the first to set that man at liberty. He knows the law, he knows the constitution. Why does he take a hand in such legislation as this? I respect his opinion, his conduct, his convictions, but I am sure if he were not in politics, if he were still in the sanctuary of Justice, he would not hesitate for a moment and would immediately confirm what I have just said, that this law is unconstitutional, is not worth anything and that a writ of habeas corpus, issued in the King's name, asking the reason wherefor I am arrested and sentenced, would undoubtedly restore my rights. But politics is a cloak for many misdeeds.

Mr. Speaker, I have, everywhere I have gone, pleaded the cause of the people; I said, everywhere I went and had the honour of being heard, that there would be no conscription. What were my reasons for saying so? My reasons? Why! What the Prime Minister had declared in the speech from the Throne, on the letters addressed to the archbishops and bishops; on their declarations.

I see in his seat, Mr. Speaker, a man to whom I have something to say and I take occasion of his presence to offer him my most sincere congratulations, I mean the ex-Secretary of State, hon. Mr. Patenaude. He has, indeed, done an admirable feat. He held a high position in the cabinet. Young, with a grand future in sight, full of hope, taking a keen interest in his duties, he sacrificed everything in order to keep his pledged word. That is really grand. I say to the hon. ex-minister, all honour to you, sir. The people shall give you credit for

that; the people have seen in you a statesman, a strong man, a man who does not hesitate to break away from his former friends, from his party, from his high position. You do honour to the pledged troth, honour be to you. I would have liked to see the others follow suit. They have not willed it. It is their own business; but the people shall remember it. Beware. When the people kick, they kick for good. No one has the right, Mr. Speaker, to fool the people. Everyone has the right to hold opinions contrary to those of his opponents; everyone has the right to change his convictions; everyone has the right to abandon a leader, if he does not approve of him; every one has the right to condemn his policy, if it does not suit him; but, none have the right to deceive the people. You would not forgive a servant who lied to you; no one forgives a servant who would say anything but the truth; and our public men, those who govern, those who direct the people, those men to whom are entrusted honour, wealth, integrity, uprightness, all that we hold most precious in this world, would be permitted to play false. I say, that is not what I have been taught in my country, and I say to the hon. Mr. Patenaude, ex-minister: Why not come with us, come and sit with your old colleagues, you will be well cared for and be given due justice, because the stand you have taken was a most honourable one, and it must be a great satisfaction to be able to say to yourself that you have been faithful to the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I was present in my own country church, when our learned parish priest ascended the pulpit and said: "My children, I have just learned that the National Service cards are not being signed; you are probably afraid that it may be the first step towards conscription, well, I tell you now, from this pulpit, that we are duly authorized to say to you that there will be no conscription. We have the pledged word of those who govern that you can sign the National Service cards without any apprehension, that there will be no conscription." Then, every one, or almost every one, did sign. This same scene took place in every church, throughout the province; the parish priests mounted their pulpits and advised their flocks to sign, because those in power had given assurance that there would be no conscription. The cards had scarcely been signed when conscription came. Where do you find sincerity here? Where do you find frankness? Where do