

I was surprised at some of the statements made yesterday by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull), in the course of which he mentioned my name. I propose very briefly to deal with those statements. At page 125 of Hansard the hon. gentleman, referring to my leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) is reported as follows:

Yesterday we heard from the right hon. leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) what I might call a confession of repentance by the Hon. Mr. Gardiner, the Liberal leader in the province of Saskatchewan. That statement was delivered at Portage la Prairie, shortly after Mr. Gardiner became premier of the province. But I fear that soon after he must have been disciplined by his leader in Ottawa, because he very speedily abandoned that profession, and in the fall of 1926 we find that, instead of trying to promote unity and harmony in this country, he was trying to build up a bloc, preaching the doctrine of a solid Saskatchewan and a solid Quebec to govern Canada.

Now, as I—

Mr. TURNBULL: Will the right hon. gentleman permit me to make a correction?

Mr. VALLANCE: I thank the hon. gentleman for the compliment. I must ask him to wait a minute.

Mr. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, may I speak to a question of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, if it is a question of privilege.

Mr. TURNBULL: The reference I made, Mr. Speaker, to the right hon. gentleman who was preaching the doctrine of a solid bloc in Saskatchewan was to the right hon. leader of the opposition in Ottawa (Mr. Mackenzie King), and not to Mr. Gardiner. I know in unrevised Hansard my remarks are in the form in which my hon. friend is now quoting them, but in sending back the proof I made the necessary correction. I think hon. members will agree with me that my reference was to the right hon. leader of the opposition in Ottawa.

An hon. MEMBER: No, you mentioned his name.

Mr. VALLANCE: I do not happen yet to be in possession of the revised Hansard containing the hon. gentleman's corrected statement, so I merely quoted what he stated on the floor of the house, and on that occasion I attempted to ask him a question, but he was not as courteous to me as I have been to him. However, I would point out to him, as I attempted to do at the time, that with Quebec returning 65 members and Saskatchewan 21, it is utterly impossible for those 86

members to control this house. I want also to point out to the hon. gentleman that at all times it has been our policy in Saskatchewan, especially when we elected 17 members in the 1925 general election, to urge that the delegation coming from west of the great lakes, whether you call them Conservatives, Liberals, Independents, Progressives, or by any other name, must always be in a position where they will and can cooperate with any groups from the other provinces. I think, Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that the 17 Liberal members from Saskatchewan did demonstrate that that was possible. True, on many occasions we had, as I pointed out, the cooperation of other groups from western Canada. So that that statement is hardly accurate. However, he says he has corrected it in the revised Hansard.

The hon. gentleman made this further attack on my leader when he addressed the house yesterday. He said:

Let me say that there is no substantial secessionist movement in western Canada, and the people there, when they read the press, will resent the suggestion from the leader of the Liberal party in this house that the west is secessionist or that the people in the west are.

What he did say was said by my leader later on. Now the hon. gentleman says that there is no secessionist movement in western Canada. He goes a little further. He says:

The only talk of secession in western Canada arose from a meeting of six gentlemen in the town of Wilkie in the constituency of my hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance). And the only person who knows about secession in western Canada is the hon. gentleman who represents that constituency.

Now, I have the honour to represent that constituency and I am going to be quite frank with my hon. friend from Regina. I tell him he does not know the condition that prevails in South Battleford or he would not make such a statement. I tell him right now, not because I am a secessionist but because I know the facts, that there were no six gentlemen in the town of Wilkie who held the meeting where he suggests the secessionist movement originated.

I hold in my hand the official document known as the farmers' charter of liberty, and I want to tell the house that at no time during the twenty-five years that I have been privileged to live in that constituency have I seen the people driven to the extremes that they are on this occasion. When I received this official document it was at a public meeting at which there were some four or five hundred people. The organizer or speaker of the evening was dealing with