

in the slightest degree, the conduct of gentlemen who took this particular moment, one of the most critical in the history of Canada, to show their devotion to the Empire by breaking up a Government whose duty it was, regardless of all minor considerations, regardless of all personal considerations, regardless of all those disputes which may arise in a Government for the time being, at any rate, to carry on the affairs of the Government until a fitting time came to resign their positions. They should have settled their differences before Parliament met, but, having allowed Parliament to meet, they certainly showed how little regard they had for anything beyond their own petty personal interests, their own petty political ambitions, when they chose that particular moment to break up the Government and render it impossible for it to carry on the affairs of the country.

Mr. TARTE. The result of the elections in Montreal Centre and Jacques Cartier has brought on this ministerial crisis. The First Minister did not go to Montreal Centre, nor did he go to Jacques Cartier. Nearly all the other Ministers came down. The ex-Finance Minister came, and made several magnificent speeches. The ex-Minister of Justice came to Jacques Cartier, and he made a magnificent speech. My hon. friend the leader of the House also came down to Jacques Cartier and made a magnificent speech. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works also came down and made a magnificent speech. My hon. friend the Secretary of State came also. I had the honour to meet him, and he also made a very good speech. All those members, past and present, of the Administration, came down and made magnificent speeches, but the Prime Minister did not come. They lost the battle. Sir, I rise from my seat as one who took a large share in those two elections, and I say that the electors did not vote against the Prime Minister, they voted against the whole Administration. I was surprised when I read, in more than one paper, I am sorry to say, that it was French Quebec which was rallying round the leader of the Opposition. Montreal Centre, as every one knows, is composed of many races. Take, for instance, the Board of Trade. Out of the whole Board of Trade, composed of English members almost exclusively, there were not twelve men who voted for my hon. friends. Sir, it was a square fight on our part, at any rate. Was it a square fight on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite? I listened to several of their speeches. They resorted to the worst possible appeals, to racial passions and prejudices.

Mr. DEVLIN. They charged us with doing so.

Mr. TARTE. They said to the Roman Catholic electors of Montreal Centre and

Jacques Cartier: If you do not vote for the Administration and their candidates, you won't get any remedial legislation. Ministers of the Crown spoke in that way; members of the House used that language. We used the language of toleration, we used the language of moderation. Now, what has taken place? Seven Ministers of the Crown, exactly the number of bolters to-day, came to Montreal Centre and to Jacques Cartier. They said they were taking their lives in their hands on behalf of the Roman Catholic minority. What is the result of those two elections? The day after the election, we read in the ministerial press that the Protestant members of the Administration had made up their minds that there would be no remedial legislation. That language of the "Mail" and of the Montreal "Gazette" was not disclaimed. But what have we seen since? Seven members of the Administration, seven Protestant members of the Administration, I am sorry to say, went out, dividing, thereby, the country into religious factions. Still they claim that they are the loyal party. The facts are there, Mr. Speaker; I wish I were wrong, but the facts are there. We are face to face with those facts. We do not know the whole truth—we know it, but it was not written in the document which was read by the ex-leader of the House. The real facts are—let us state them like men—that my hon. friend and his colleagues do not want to carry out the pledges they have solemnly made during the last session of Parliament. Instead of coming out like men, and saying: We cannot do what we have pledged ourselves to do, they knife their own Prime Minister. That is the position, as every one knows. Now, Sir, the name of the High Commissioner has been mentioned. I have been one of his followers in times past. I know him well. He is an able man, and I am only sorry for one thing, and that is that he happens to be in Canada when such a crisis has arisen. He should not be here, Sir, and every loyal man—I use the word in the best sense—and every Conservative, should be of my opinion. Here is a man occupying the dignified position of High Commissioner, and we hear him accused of conspiracy. One thing is perfectly sure, and that is, that the members who have gone out of the Administration are trying to put him at their head. I have been surprised at the new doctrine that has been propounded in this Parliament. Some hon. gentlemen have said that the Conservative party have a right to choose their own leader; that is to say, their own Prime Minister. Sir, if there is a well-established doctrine, it is that the sovereign is entirely and absolutely free in the choice of his Prime Minister. The ex-leader of the House has said in the paper which he read to the House, that the Conservative party are prepared to form a new Government. He has no