

arguments against reciprocity, which is not concerned in this debate, and to thundering against the Liberal party.

Is that fighting against the adoption of a Bill? Is that taking all means allowable under the constitution and the rules of the House? Is that the fight to death which the Nationalist candidates, at the last general elections, pledged themselves to engage in? These gentlemen stated on all the hustings of our province that they would shed their last drop of blood before consenting to the sacrifice of the sacred rights of the people. To the hon. members of Yamaska (Mr. Mondou), of Maskinongé (Mr. Bellemare), of Berthier (Mr. Barrette), I ask to-day: When will you redeem that pledge? When will you submit to that glorious immolation on the altar of your country?

No, these gentlemen who continue singing the praises of the Government and demanding the dismissal of Liberal employees in their constituencies, cannot hope to deceive public opinion.

In the meantime, the newspapers waging war against us persist in their double dealing. The 'News' of Toronto and the 'Evènement' of Quebec inform their credulous readers that an alliance has been concluded between the Liberal party and the Nationalists. In its issue of Saturday, February 15, the 'Evènement,' under the title, 'A likely alliance,' announced the conspiracy Laurier-Bourassa-Macdonald.

On the other hand 'Le Devoir' goes on denouncing what it terms the conspiracy Laurier-Borden, and its chief editor, as late as yesterday, was endeavouring in an article intitled 'At one,' to show the existence of that monstrous union.

Sir, these two groups may put aside all anxiety, and cease fearing. If their alliance is dissolved, if their divorce is a foregone conclusion, the Liberal party is not disposed to unite with any of the unfaithful partners. Under the eye of all these extremists and radicals who devour one another to-day, the Liberal party has recuperated, is united, erect, and more than ever sure of the support of the country and of the people's confidence. What we wish is that all our opponents of 1911, the promoters of the only conspiracy which has existed in connection with that great question, continue as they are doing now, to stay behind this Government, so that on the day when Canada gets rid of the present Administration, they may be all found in the same bunch, stricken by the same defeat and withered by the same popular reprobation.

Sir, that day cannot be far away, and the electors impatiently await its coming. In the meantime we intend fighting with all our might for the triumph of popular views, and that is why I shall vote for the hon. member for Assiniboia.

Mr. E. PAQUET (L'Islet): (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend and neighbour,

the member for Kamouraska (Mr. Lapointe) has just made a speech which certainly is worthy of the attention of the whole House, and of mine in particular. Accordingly in the course of the remarks which I propose to make, I hope to be able to answer satisfactorily some of his charges.

Mr. Speaker, at this advanced stage of a memorable debate, allow me to make a few remarks only. In 1905, at the time of the creation and organization of the Western provinces, I did not hesitate to break away from my party to defend the rights of the minorities, and to protect the privileges of the French tongue. In 1912, when the Conservative leaders were completing the work of the fathers of Confederation, by the addition of immense territories to Manitoba, the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec, I stood aloof from my friends in order to vindicate the rights of the minority in Keewatin.

To-day, as in 1905 and in 1912, I act in accordance with the strict dictates of my conscience, in separating from my friends, to more effectively fight the naval policy of the right hon. leader of the Opposition, safeguard the privileges which we enjoy in virtue of our constitution, and better insure equality of rights to all nationalities; having conscience that I am doing better service for the cause of justice and liberty in so far as the French-speaking communities spread over the various provinces of the Dominion are concerned.

I keep faith with the Prime Minister because he has declared in favour of consulting the people on a naval policy of a permanent character. I keep faith with Mr. Borden, because he pledges himself to abstain from adopting a permanent naval policy without previously consulting the Canadian people. I say after a public man: 'We will keep that faith with Mr. Borden, who has already won the respect of Canadians, as long as he remains faithful to his policy of respect for the Canadian electorate.'

Faithful to the trust reposed in them by the people, the French Canadian Conservatives who approved of the Prime Minister's proposal, will fight without complaining of the wounds received, as soldiers who know that their cause is indestructible, and that they are bound to win.

During the session of 1909, I gave my support to the resolution of March 29, because the best informed political leaders of Parliament assured me that there was an emergency. During the session of 1913, my leaders, well in touch with the present situation, owing to an inquiry carried on in Great Britain with the assistance of the Imperial authorities, assured me that there is still an emergency, that there is actually danger for the supremacy of the British fleet. On December 5, 1912, the Prime Minister said: 'That burden is so great that the day has come when either the existence