

ernment as we formed it was, on the whole, the best in the public interest and the verdict of the people has not disapproved them.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—I am very glad to have the presence in this House of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, as he has saved me, to a great extent, from having to answer the remarks of the hon. gentlemen from DeLanaudière and DeSalaberry on the subject that has formed the principal portion of the discussion this afternoon. That complaint has been made time and again in this House, and we know that the hon. gentlemen who make it believe at all events that justice has not been done to the French Canadian race. I will not go further into the discussion upon the general subject of the representatives in this House, of that element having a member in the Government, because on previous occasions I have gone at length into the question, and have taken very much the ground which the hon. gentleman from Mille Isles has taken now, that this Government, and all governments would be very glad to have a representative of the French race in this House in the Cabinet. It cannot be otherwise; no matter who may constitute the Government, their desire is to stand well with both Houses. That is clearly the object of the person charged with the duty of forming a government, as it was the duty of the gentleman who was charged with the formation of the Government on that occasion, and no matter under what circumstances, or who would be asked to join an administration, it would be his object, as it is the object of every Government, to stand well with both Houses; and of course, other things being equal, he would be very glad to have a representative of both races in this House. But the question did not arise to-day for the first time; it was raised in a previous session in reference to the position occupied by the hon. the Speaker of this House, when the hon. gentleman opposite complained that the rule which he said had always existed since Confederation had not been followed. That rule he laid down to be this; that where there was a French Canadian speaker in the other House there should

be an English speaker in this House and *vice versa*.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—There is nothing of the kind.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—No, I think it was the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudière who made the statement, and while the hon. gentleman knows very well that he has my sympathy with him in his desire to have a French-speaking member of this House in the Cabinet, I ask him if he did not push that rather farther than he intended, because if my hon. friend will reflect on what took place during the term of the last Government he will find that that rule did not hold then; he will remember that we had an English speaker in the lower House in the person of Mr. Anglin, and in this House we had the Hon. Mr. Christie. No such rule held good then for five years. Does my hon. friend forget also that the first Speaker of this House was a French Canadian? And the second Speaker was also a French Canadian, yet nobody on the floor of this House, of those who are now here or of the many members who are not now here (and we deplore their loss) complained then that the Speaker was a French Canadian. I forget whether the Speaker was elected then or not, but when Mr. Chauveau presented his commission from the Governor-General and took his seat here as Speaker, and when he was followed by Mr. Cauchon, not one word was said; and no English-speaking member had any idea that there was any wrong done by there being two French speakers appointed to this House in succession. Does he forget also that the race which he represents, and which we all respect and honor—that that race is throughout the Dominion as only one to five of the whole population. The population of the country may be a little over five millions, of which only one million are French Canadians; how then does the hon. gentlemen lay down the proposition that the speakership of this House and of the other House must alternate between French and English representatives? We do not want to discuss it on that ground, but if it comes to discussing it from that standpoint, would it be fair that the Speaker of this House and of the other House should alternate between English and French? If it were