

sides would have been made to the Government of the country. No matter what Government might have been in power, they would have been forced to make further advances of the character that I have already mentioned.

My honourable friends opposite have taken a very great deal of satisfaction—and, I think, properly so—from the solidarity of the Quebec vote. If I belonged to the party to which my honourable friends belong, I should probably look upon that as a tribute to the organizing forces of my party. Nevertheless this maintenance of the Quebec bloc and the Progressive bloc—of which I shall speak in a moment—seems to me to threaten the final disintegration of this Dominion if it is continued. Why should the province of Quebec pursue a policy of hostility, as it has done during the last two general elections, to the Liberal-Conservative party? That party, during the fifty-five years of Federal Government, from Confederation down to the present time, has administered the affairs of this country for no less than thirty-four years, and, I claim, thirty-four years with credit to this Dominion and certainly to the Province of Quebec. Yet we know that during the last two elections the cry went out—and this cannot be controverted—that the Quebec bloc was to be maintained to the exclusion and the extirpation of every representative of the Liberal-Conservative party who sought a seat in this Parliament.

If representative institutions are to be maintained in this country, it can only be done by a well-balanced representation of all political parties in the councils of the nation. It must appeal to the common sense of my honourable friend that if by some extraordinary cry a province will absolutely refuse to give fair play, or give representation to a substantial proportion of the people within that province, simply because they belong to a certain party, harmony cannot be maintained in Canada, and our institutions must necessarily suffer from that degree of prejudice and hostility. I am prepared to say further that the trouble in the province of Quebec in the last election was not based upon party consideration, was not confined to party lines. The struggle was maintained upon a plane which is not for a moment consistent with our representative institutions in Canada. It was maintained for the purpose of giving to that province an ascendancy by which it would be supreme in controlling the Government of this country. We find the most responsible

individuals and organizations in that province forsaking, as we well know, the political sympathies which they had been expression for years and years, severing their adherence to the party to which they had belonged and joining forces with the opposite party for the purpose of forcing and securing an ascendancy in Parliament. That condition is inimical and repulsive to all our ideas of representative institutions and does violence to that sense of freedom which should be expressed upon the floor of Parliament.

I am the more surprised at this because of the broad moderation which characterizes Quebec in legislation dealing with moral, social, and secular subjects. I am free to accord to the province of Quebec greater sanity in legislation along secular lines than is shown by some of the other provinces of the Dominion. Quebec has shown less intolerance upon moral and social legislation than other provinces. The security of investment and property is superior in the province of Quebec, in my judgment, to that in any other province in Canada. The people of Quebec have resisted the wave of the present age to the introduction of all kinds of political nostrums and panaceas for the amelioration of imaginary difficulties, and they are the only really conservative province, so far as I know, in the Dominion of Canada. If I were investing money tomorrow in the carrying out of any great undertaking, or advising the investment of capital, I would prefer its investment in the province of Quebec to any other part of the Dominion. In view of these facts I cannot understand the hostility manifested by the province of Quebec against a proper or fair distribution of representation in Parliament.

There are no critics in the Dominion so severe upon the Progressives as the province of Quebec; yet the Progressives from the West have simply followed the example of Quebec, and it is now a contest between the two blocs as to which shall be the stronger. The Progressives have adopted the fundamental idea upon which Quebec has built up its own peculiar bloc, and they have built up a fundamentally similar one in the provinces west of the Lakes. It is the same spirit which actuates both each equally selfish in spirit. One reason why I may perhaps be a little caustic upon the subject is that the policy pursued by the province of Quebec has extended to the West, and we have the mischievous spirit introduced into those Western Provinces of one party controlling