

little of the English language to find that out. The French inscription reads:

"A l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la Confédération constituant en Dominion du Canada les Colonies Britanniques de l'Amérique du Nord. . ."

Dans ce bout de phrase il y a deux fautes. Continuing in English, let me say that the Confederation never constituted anything, it was being constituted; and it is a piece of foolishness to put such an inscription on a monument which we presume will last for centuries and which will be there as showing our inaccurate knowledge not only of English but of French.

Mr. CURRIE: Read the English inscription.

Mr. VIEN: I have not got it here. However, it states that Confederation constituted the Dominion of Canada into a Confederation. I say that Confederation was being constituted and did not constitute anything. Let me point out to the minister that at the time of Confederation the French translation of the word "Dominion" was "Puissance" and Puissance is a much more appropriate word. I regret that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) is not here to give us his opinion. He has been declaring that we were now a power, that we were now a nation. Well, the word "Puissance" translates very well the word "Dominion." "Dominion" is not French at all. It is, of course, derived from the Latin word "Domino."

Mr. CURRIE: From the changed version of the Bible.

Mr. VIEN: I am sure the men who translated the inscription on the building must have been great Biblical authorities.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Sir Leonard Tilley.

Mr. VIEN: The word "Dominion" is a very good English word, it belongs to that language; but nowhere in the French language will you find the word "Dominion". No dictionary will give you that word as French. Yet you find on the central pillar of the main entrance to the hall—the Hall of Fame—an inscription which exhibits to all generations to come how little we know of the French language. We on this side will certainly be held responsible for the translation—the responsibility will not fall on the shoulders of hon gentlemen opposite. Thus it will help to spread the legend that the people of Quebec do not speak French but a patois, a half-breed language between

the Huron and the French. I wish to point out in the first place that it is a very wrong thing for a minister of the Crown to give information which is utterly inaccurate, which is an absolute falsehood, to an hon. member of the House who asks a question. I do not hold my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works responsible for that, I know how it is done. But I wish to point out to the Government that greater care should be exercised in the preparation of answers given in the House. The Minister of Railways gave me two or three answers during the present session which are absolutely in contradiction of the facts.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I am surprised.

Mr. VIEN: I was not as surprised to receive inaccurate answers from the Minister of Railways as I was to receive them from the Minister of Public Works. However, I do not hold either minister altogether responsible, but I draw their attention to the fact that the answers they give should be accurate. In the second place I think it is a very wrong thing to endeavour to place responsibility for the phrasing of this inscription upon such a distinguished gentleman as Mr. Decelles, who knows the French language thoroughly, who is one of our most distinguished compatriots in the province of Quebec and who is a great littérateur—I think it is a mistake to associate his name with an inscription which is so badly phrased. In the third place I think that before placing an inscription in French on the centre pillar more care should have been taken. Finally, may I suggest to the minister, that Mr. Pearson himself told me that it would be a very minor matter indeed to remove the three stones on the centre pillar containing the inscription. I strongly urge on my hon. friend that steps should be taken to have the change made without further delay, unless he wishes to pass down to posterity as not knowing the French language, nor even the English language, because the English inscription will have to be changed as well. May I ask the minister if there is any hope that this will be attended to?

Mr. CURRIE: Carried.

Mr. VIEN: My hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie) is really in too much of a hurry. If he wishes the item to stand over for further discussion he may be assured that he is following the very course that will bring about such a result—

Mr. CURRIE: Mr. Chairman—