

Liberal principles in 'La Presse,' a paper that has sold itself to every party and has been the bed-fellow of each regime in turn.

The first portion of the article is absolutely untrue. It is clear from the journals of the House that, at the time of the second reading, I was ready to proceed and that it was only at the request of the hon. the Prime Minister that I consented to delay the second reading. I was always present at my seat, whenever the Bill might have been called, and had an occasion offered, I would have requested to proceed. From the 28th January to the 2nd April, the dates mentioned by 'La Presse,' I was always at my seat ready to proceed on the second reading; and I appeal to the Prime Minister himself as to the truth of what I say.

As to the statement of 'La Presse' that at the meeting of Friday last at the Monument National there were no Liberal leaders, I will say that several Liberal members had been invited, amongst others the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Gervais) who is now in his seat and who had consented to address the meeting. There were also the hon. members for St. Johns and Iberville (Mr. Demers) and for St. Ann's (Mr. Walsh), also the member for l'Islet (Mr. Paquet), invited as a Conservative.

I might summon the editor of the paper to the bar of the House for false representations and falsehoods. I will not do so because I respect my colleagues too much to bring into their presence that aged prostitute, that old barrel of cognac.

Some MEMBERS. Order, order. Withdraw.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. I am called to order, but I have absolutely nothing to withdraw.

#### CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION—INVESTIGATION BY MR. JUSTICE CASSELS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.). I desire to ask the government if there is any objection to having copies of the evidence taken before the commission presided over by Judge Cassels laid on the table of the House from day to day. That course was adopted with regard to some other commissions—I think the Insurance Commission was one. It would seem desirable that it should be followed in the present case.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). I am not aware that our attention has been called to that point. I do not know whether the order of the House called upon the commission to report from time to time or not. I think that if that was the order of the House, the commission would be willing to exercise its powers. I will look into the matter.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not intend so much to suggest any report from the Commissioner, but to have a copy of the evidence taken from day to day laid on the table of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That matter will be considered.

#### PROPOSED DIVISION OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Mr. A. C. BOYCE (West Algoma). Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to ask:

1. Whether the government is aware that a vigorous campaign is being conducted in the northern constituencies of Ontario in the present provincial election, for the separating of the northern portion of Ontario from the remainder of the province, and the creation of a new province from such northern districts of the province.

2. Is the government aware that this campaign is being supported and carried on upon representations made in the platform, that the Prime Minister of Canada has asserted that if seventy-five per cent of the people representing the territory desire to be separated from Ontario and desire that such territory be constituted a new province that effect will be given to such petition, and proceedings taken by the government for the formation of a new province out of that northern portion of Ontario, commonly called 'New Ontario'?

3. Was any such representation, or similar representation made by the Prime Minister, or any of his colleagues or any one else having authority, to speak on behalf of the government?

4. What, if any, representations have been made to the Prime Minister, or to the government, as to the desire of forming a new province out of the northern portions of Ontario, commonly called 'New Ontario,' if so, by whom, and when were they made and what answer is being made by the government?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend (Mr. Boyce) asks me if the government is aware that a vigorous campaign is being carried on in the northern part of the province of Ontario for the separation of that part of the province from the rest. I have to say to my hon. friend that I am not aware that a vigorous campaign, or any campaign, is being carried on to that end. The matter is almost wholly new to me. I think I received a letter to that effect, but I have expressed no opinion upon it and certainly never stated anything of the kind attributed to me in the question of my hon. friend.

#### SIR CHARLES FITZPATRICK AS MEMBER OF THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Has the Prime Minister any information to give