

This contrasts forcibly with the fanatical words of Mr. McCarthy, in his speech at Stayner, where he freely expressed his thoughts. Addressing the English part of the population, he said :

"There is a good deal of work cut out for us here. Let us begin with that which appears to be the most possible. Let us occupy ourselves with the dual language in the North-West. In the Legislature let us occupy ourselves with the teaching of French in the schools. When these two questions shall have been regulated we will have done something, and we will possibly be in a state to do more in the future.

Further, he says :

"We should take up our arms. \* \* \* \* \* We live in an English country, and the sooner we are able to Anglicize the French Canadians the better it will be for our posterity, for whom the task will be made more easy, and this question will have to be regulated sooner or later."

Here we have the announcement, in the plainest terms, that this is but the beginning of the end. Shall we not find in this language sufficient notice? Is this in keeping with the promises made to us at Confederation? Let us see. It is now 25 years since I had the honor to take part in the debates on Confederation, and when we expressed fears as to the use of the language of the minority, what was the reply that was made to us? Let me quote from the Confederation Debates :

"HON. MR. DORION—I do not rise to offer any lengthened remarks, but to draw the attention of the members of the Administration, with a view to obtain some information in connection with this scheme; but before doing so, I would say a word in reply to the explanation given by the Hon. Attorney General West to the question put by the hon. member for the county of Quebec (Hon. Mr. Evanturel) with regard to the use of French language. The Hon. Attorney General West stated that the intention of the delegates at the Quebec Conference was to give the same guarantees for the use of the French language in the Federal Legislature as now existed under the present Union. I conceive, Sir, that this is no guarantee whatsoever, for in the Union Act it was provided that the English language alone should be used in Parliament, and the French language was entirely prohibited; but this provision was subsequently repealed by the 11th and 12th Victoria, and the matter left to the discretion of the Legislature. So that if to-morrow this Legislature choose to vote that no other but the English language should be used in our proceedings it might do so, and thereby forbid the use of the French language. There is, therefore, no guarantee for the continuance of the use of the language of the majority of the people of Lower Canada but the will and the forbearance of the majority. And as the number of French members in the General Legislature, under the proposed Confederation, will be proportionately much smaller than it is in the present Legislature, this ought to make hon. members consider what little chance there is for the continued use of their language in the Federal Legislature. This is the only observation I have to make on this subject of the Hon. Attorney General West.

"Hon. Attorney General MACDONALD—I desire to say that I agree with my hon. friend, that as it stands just now the majority governs; but in order to

cure this, it was agreed at the Conference to embody the provision in the Imperial Act. (Hear, hear.) This was proposed by the Canadian Government for fear an accident might arise subsequently, and it was assented to by the deputation from each Province that the use of the French language should form one of the principles upon which the Confederation should be established, and that its use, as at present, should be guaranteed by the Imperial Act. (Hear, hear.)

"Hon. Attorney General CARTIER—I will add to what has been stated by the Hon. Attorney General for Upper Canada, in reply to the hon. member for Hochelaga, that it was also necessary to protect the English minorities in Lower Canada with respect to the use of their language, because in the Local Parliament of Lower Canada the majority will be composed of French Canadians. The members of the Conference were desirous that it should not be in the power of that majority to decree the abolition of the use of the English language in the Local Legislature of Lower Canada, any more than it will be in the power of the Federal Legislature to do so with respect to the French language. I will also add that the use of both languages will be secured in the Imperial Act to be based on these resolutions. (Hear, hear.)

"Hon. Attorney General CARTIER—Mr. Speaker, in reply to what the hon. member for Hochelaga has just said, I shall merely tell hon. members of this House that they need not take alarm at the apprehensions and predictions of that hon. gentleman. I have already declared in my own name, and on behalf of the Government, that the delegates who go to England will accept from the Imperial Government no Act but one based on the resolutions adopted by this House, and they will not bring back any other. (Hear, hear.) I have pledged my word of honor and it will have at least as much weight with this House and the country as the apprehensions of the hon. member for Hochelaga. (Cheers.)"

Such was the pledge of honor given by Sir George E. Cartier. How have his successors at the present day maintained it? Had Sir A. A. Dorion been still a member of the House, as he was then, with what feelings would he have witnessed this violation of the solemn promises which were made to us then! Are not we to-day a directing power in the political formation of the vast plains of western Canada? It is a root of a great tree; it has a right to the same liberal sap which has been given ourselves, and I hope that it will be accorded. I regret that I cannot share the views of the hon. leader of this House, who told us yesterday that the population of western Canada will be absolutely in the same position as that of Quebec, which has the right, under its municipal code, to declare that in rural districts, where only the French language is used, the proceedings need only be published in that language, and *vice versa*. Let the hon. gentleman leave to the Territories the liberty which they have to-day in their Legislature, and we will demand nothing more; but to argue from the individual to the general, is something which I, for my