

from such and such a text of law, but arguments which appeal to common sense, to the sense of fair play, I state we always obtain results; not always immediately and such as we expect, because an Englishman is slow, deliberate in his movements, it is hard for him to cast aside his prejudices; but once his thick skin has been pierced, when he has become convinced that a measure has common sense, that it is practical and just, one has sometimes to knock hard to pierce that skin, but once that is done, we usually find among most of them, an upright conscience, a well placed heart; and they apply the act in a broadminded way.

I shall therefore support the bill, leaving to the committee which will be appointed the care of examining it in its details, improve on it if necessary and send it back to the house so that we may give it a final sanction, to which, I feel certain, after studying and thinking it over, the large majority of French Canadians will support it, in spite of the beclouding of the question by newspapers and patriotic associations which have been handing to one and other scraps of papers without, I feel sure, having closely studied the question.

At six o'clock the house recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. JOSEPH A. BRADETTE (North Timiskaming) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, we had, this afternoon, the good fortune of listening to the splendid speech delivered by the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) as well as that of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). It brought back my happy boyhood days, when I resided in Montreal, where, on many occasions, I was fortunate enough to hear these two gentlemen discussing national questions which interested the whole country. Useless to state that I was in no way disappointed in listening to their speeches. One thing struck me; the hon. member for Labelle thought fit to confess that in the past, on various occasions, he had talked nonsense. I accepted his statement in the way he intended it to be understood, because the hon. member was then replying to a question of the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier) with reference to the question which at present interests us, and which was threshed out to a certain extent, in a masterly way by the hon. member for Labelle. No doubt had

[Mr. Bourassa.]

the Bill No. 4 been introduced by the hon. member for Labelle, that would have been sufficient for me to endorse its second reading. However, to a question put by the hon. member for Ottawa, the hon. member for Labelle refused to reply, namely, would not this bill do away, to some extent with the practical establishment of the French language in Canada, basing such an argument on article 133?

To another question, sir, put by the hon. member for Ottawa, the hon. member replied very discourteously. He stated, however, that certain statements he had made in the past were purely and simply nonsense. In fact, the hon. member for Labelle, in the past, did make statements which smacked of nonsense on certain questions which interested the country at large. Does the same principle apply to the speech which the hon. member has delivered in the house on the present debate?

What also amazed me, was the hon. member's little reliance in the press of this country. When the author of the present amendment pointed out that the French Canadian press feared that the bill under consideration might be a blow to the French language, the hon. member for Labelle asserted that the press had no reason to protest as it did. The hon. member, therefore, proved that he placed little reliance in the press of this country. Nevertheless he was a director of the excellent French Canadian newspaper "Le Devoir"; he was its manager for years, if not the proprietor and editor. He fails to uphold the press when he states that he places no reliance in it, moreover, the hon. member gives the impression that he is against the entire press of the country. If he places no reliance in editorials he wrote in the past, and in the editorials which will again be written by him, what will the people of Quebec and Canada think, whether they be French or English speaking when they read articles, editorials penned by the hon. member for Labelle, on various occasions, with reference to our great political problems? His references to the press of this country, implies also a newspaper of Ottawa the "Droit." The hon. member for Labelle, this afternoon, without making a solemn declaration, gave us to understand that he also, in the past, worked to have justice done to all classes of this country. I have, sir, no direct or indirect interest in any newspaper. However, I am strongly of the opinion that the press should inform the public on questions in which they have an interest at stake. The "Droit" for fifteen consecutive years has