

above all a thorough knowledge of the people with whom they live and upon whose support and cooperation they must count to accomplish something in that sphere.

As Mr J.-C. Walsh has just told them: "*One has to have the instinct of social justice rather highly developed... to make one not merely a business man but a public-business man.*"

These admirable words ought to be inscribed at the head of each page of the diary on which every business man in Montreal, both English and French, marks down the maturation of his bills payable or receivable, and his business appointments.

Since I am dealing with the English alone for the present, I have no hesitation in saying that this lack of the "instinct of social justice" is precisely what has gradually brought the two races farther apart than they were twenty-five or fifty years ago in Montreal.

This has been remarkably exemplified in all matters relating to language.

The French language in Public Services.

A few years ago, a movement was started in this province to induce, and if need be, to force the various companies, doing public service *in the province*, to put the language of the vast majority of the people of this province on a *footing of equality* with the language of the minority; or, in other words, to make an equal use of the two official languages of Canada — as it is done in Belgium, in Switzerland, in every bilingual country.

What is to be wondered, what would be a cause of astonishment in any civilised country, is that the state of thing which brought up that movement was ever allowed to exist.

But the fact was there. Railway companies, express companies, tramway companies, telegraph and telephone companies, all incorporated in Canada, under Canadian laws, most of them subsidised by the people of Canada — French as well as English — all of them dealing in this province, had never made use, in their relations with the public, of one single word of the language spoken by eighty per cent of the population of this province, by over sixty per cent of the people of this city.

Now, apart from the general and higher aspect of the question, there is a very practical side to it. Every time an individual deals with one of those companies, he virtually becomes party to a contract. Every railway or tramway ticket bought, every bill of lading signed, every blank form of telegraphic message filled up and signed, is a contract, containing many specific conditions, the knowledge of which is of immediate and personal importance to the individual who deals with the company.

Is it not preposterous to think that, for years and years, the companies doing public service in this province never thought of giving to the vast majority of their clients the advantage of reading those conditions in their own language?

Let every fair-minded and sensible English-speaking citizen of