

tion of the ability of the Senate to initiate matters, to deal primarily with most responsible national affairs. I am one of those who for many years have deplored that the Senate was not being entrusted with the full responsibilities which it ought to be given. Not only by the Government that preceded this one, but by successive Governments for many years past, the Senate has not been properly treated, and I hope that the conferring of new duties upon my honourable friends is but an earnest of what is in store, and that in the future we shall see the Senate given more equality in the conduct and initiation of public affairs.

I was much struck—and that is really the reason why I have been moved to speak—with the appeals which my honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Loughheed) made to the House, and to the country through the House, for a united Canada. My honourable friend said among other things: "Disunion will cause embarrassment to the Government and the country; the shocking spectacle of one section upbraiding another is most detrimental; racial differences must disappear; the unity and support of the whole people is most urgently required." At a time when, after the efforts of fifty years, we find that there is in Canada less national unity than there ever was before, that appeal was very timely. I hope it will engage the serious attention and consideration of every member of this House, of every member of the other Chamber, and of every citizen in Canada. I repeat, it is only too true, there is to-day in Canada far less unity than there ever was at any previous time since Confederation. There is more racial antagonism; there is more disunion. The gulf between the two races, which Confederation had for its principal object to bridge over, has become wider and deeper, and unless something is done promptly it will become wider and deeper still.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: That does not apply to all the provinces.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: That applies as between one province and other provinces. It would be folly, it would be simply following the foolish example of the ostrich, to bury our heads and let the storm blow over, pretending to take no notice of it. The fact is there, and there is no use in blinking at it. There is racial animosity to-day in Canada to an alarming degree. It has existed for years, but has now become intensified to the breaking point; and the right and necessary thing to do is to make a thorough and

complete diagnosis of the trouble. Unless we do that, unless we examine it patiently and with a desire to apply the remedy, unless we get at the root of the trouble, unless people abandon the idea of glossing it over, thinking that it will cure itself, unless we courageously and fearlessly apply ourselves to the urgent task which stares us in the face, the situation will become hopeless and immediately perilous. Some persons entertain the silly idea that the difficulty will solve itself and that there is no need to apply any particular remedy. I repeat what I said in opening: now is the time to apply the remedy, and that is, to my mind, the supreme and paramount duty of the present hour in Canada.

Some are under the impression that the increased intensity of feeling and irritation between the two races was concurrent with or produced by the war. That is not so. The feeling existed long before the war, and we all know the cause of it. I am going to refer to it in a moment. It was not the war that created or accentuated the difficulty between the two races. What better proof could I give than the fact that gentlemen in this province and in the province of Quebec, thoroughly alarmed and grieved, animated by the very laudable desire to do away with the trouble and to bring about some solution of our difficulties, organized the movement which was called the Bonne Entente? The Bonne Entente existed and was at work long before the war. They had their meetings in Ontario and in Quebec for the very purpose of dealing with this great racial difficulty. That in itself is ample proof that the racial difficulty did not originate with, or was not caused by, the war. I have no hesitation in repeating to-day—though honourable gentlemen may perhaps lose patience with me because I have said so before—that the whole cause of the intensified trouble is the persecution of the French language in this and other provinces of Canada. I boldly affirm that if at the opening of the war, or at any time since then, justice had been done to the French Canadians of Ontario and to the French Canadians of the Western provinces, concerning their desire and determination to have the French language taught, the intensity of feeling which exists to-day would have disappeared. I affirm that if that question had been solved then, you would have had no difficulties in any province with regard to the prosecution of the war. You would have secured the unanimous support of every province in Canada, the province of Quebec included; and I say de-