

bilingual. I would refer the house to two acts of this federal parliament; one is entitled An Act Respecting Currency, being chapter 40 of the revised statutes of Canada. Article 20 therein gives the governor in council the right to determine the dimensions and designs of any coin. If hon. members will refer to chapter 41 of the revised statutes of Canada, entitled An Act Respecting Dominion Notes, it will be seen that article 4 enacts that:

Dominion notes shall be of such denominational values as the governor in council determines, and shall be in such form, and signed by such persons, two in number, as the minister directs.

May we not infer that the form, denomination and design are within the power of the governor in council or the minister, and therefore may be made bilingual?

This principle of bilingualism has been strikingly put into practice in our Naturalization Act, which states that an alien, in order to be eligible for naturalization, must know either the French or the English language.

By reason of our present constitution, Canada is essentially a biracial country. All Canadians are equal before the king and in the eyes of the law; all enjoy equal rights, civil and religious, and the father of confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald, has truly stated: "There is no conquered race in Canada". Speaking in the house on February 17, 1890, Sir John A. Macdonald declared:

I have no accord with the desire expressed in certain quarters that by any mode whatever there should be an attempt made to oppress the one language or to make it inferior to the other.

I believe that would be impossible if it were tried, and it would be foolish and wicked if it were possible. The statement that has been made so often that this is a conquered country is "à propos de rien." Whether it was conquered or ceded, we have a constitution under which all British subjects are in a position of absolute equality, having equal rights of every kind, of language, of religion, of property, of person.

There is no paramount race in this country. There is no conquered race in this country. We are all British subjects and those who are not English are none the less British subjects on that account.

Confederation is a partnership and this is a bilingual country.

May I be permitted to add that the French speaking population of Canada has always taken a large and decisive share in our constitutional evolution. In the 1867 elections the issue was the confederation act which is to-day our magna charta. Ontario gave a slight majority of ten in favour of the project; the maritimes rejected it by a majority of fourteen, so that the English speaking popula-

tion, outside Quebec, rejected confederation by a majority of four. Our province strongly supported Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier in giving confederation a majority of twenty-five. This important stand taken by the French speaking element in 1867 made confederation possible. We chose then to become partners.

This was the third time we chose to become partners. The first time was in 1760 when the colony was inhabited by 60,000 French Canadians. The treaty of Paris and the Articles of Capitulation clearly stated that these inhabitants were extended by the British crown the privilege, if they so desired, of returning to France, their mother country. Article 26 states:

If by the Treaty of Peace, Canada remains to His Britannic Majesty, all the French, Canadians, Acadians, merchants and other persons who choose to retire to France, shall have leave to do so from the British general, who shall procure them a passage; and nevertheless, if, from this time to that decision, any French, or Canadian merchants or other persons, shall desire to go to France, they shall likewise have leave from the British general. Both the one and the other shall take with them their families, servants and baggage.

This privilege was conceded by the word "Granted". Guided by their advisers, the parish priests, the French Canadians, Acadians, decided to stay in Canada and to become, of their own free will, British subjects. They chose Canada as their country and His Majesty George III as their king. They did so because they were granted freedom of trade, the right of ownership and, above everything, the safeguarding of their faith and their language.

A few years afterwards our forefathers had a second opportunity of changing their allegiance when the New England states rebelled against the British crown. They took up arms to defend Quebec, the citadel and walls of which encircled the last few inches of ground over which ruled the British King on the North American continent. May I say at this point that Sir Robert Borden, that most distinguished and esteemed Canadian statesman, in his work *Canada and the Commonwealth*, has this to say at page 67:

Thus it is apparent that if the habitants or a considerable majority of them had joined the American forces, Quebec would have fallen and Canada would probably have been lost to Great Britain.

Sir Guy Carleton, an ex-governor general, stated that without the French Canadians it would have been utterly impossible to keep this dominion under the British crown. Therefore, for the second time the French Canadians chose to become partners. The third time,