

to try to close our eyes to the achievements of a great nation that will doubtless remain a world force.

Speaking on this question recently in the United States, Mr. Elihu Root said very reasonably, what might be applied to certain districts of our Western Provinces, that, "Every effort should be made to promote the universal use of English, and that nothing ought to be done which will make it easier for anyone to read or speak German instead of reading and speaking English." This is not to say, however, as some confused patriots desire, that it should be made impossible for any young person to study in our schools one of the chief languages of the earth. To do this would be to handicap every individual who might later choose a scientific career.

Is it reasonable to suppose that the elimination of German from the schools will hurt Germany and not us? Is it reasonable to suppose that by raising a Chinese wall of ignorance around us we shall be protected from the invasion of German influence? Why should Germans hereafter compete equipped with the English and French languages and learning, while we rely only on ours? The Government of France have taken an enlightened stand on this question which deserves to be well considered by Americans and Canadians. They have combated the feeling of hostility against instruction in German which naturally showed itself in France after the outbreak of the war and the subsequent treatment of the invaded parts of the country. The classes in German are now being recommended by those in authority; and the Minister of Education has said: "The University must counteract in so far as it lies in its power the tendency to which the Inspector Generals have called attention, which manifests itself among the pupils to abandon the study of German." Of course it should. These cool and educated Frenchmen realize that in order to protect themselves it is necessary to be able to read what their enemies write and understand what they say. To remain ignorant is to play into German hands. Most of the outcry against the teaching of German rests on complete inability to think. It illustrates