

Dean Coleman believed that both English and French were already studied in all Canadian universities and secondary schools, and in Ontario there was in progress a movement to allow the study of French to be begun in the elementary schools. He therefore suggested tentatively, as an alternative, that the executive committee might be empowered to deal with this matter in a sympathetic way, rather than instructed to transmit in toto the Winnipeg resolution as it stood; the Council might also pass a motion expressing its appreciation of the various movements in the different provinces of Canada towards the enlargement and improvement of the teaching of French and English in the elementary and secondary schools and in the universities. He stated that in his opinion, in which Dr. MacMurchy concurred, there was danger of producing an effect exactly opposite to that which was desired. All depended upon the manner in which the question was broached. With regard to improved methods of teaching, he explained, he was referring especially to the movement, which was now quite general, towards acquiring an oral command of the language rather than a knowledge of its grammar.

Bishop Richardson urged caution in dealing with a subject which had behind it such explosive possibilities. In going too much into detail there was danger of arousing a sentiment opposite to that intended.

Prof. Osborne pointed out that the underlying purpose of the Association was the stimulation of good character and the promotion of good citizenship, and an integral part of the whole conception of good citizenship was the promotion of a cordial and sympathetic understanding throughout the Dominion. Every advance made by English-speaking Canada towards appropriating the advantages of proximity to French psychology and temperament and acquiring a command of the French language would be a direct contribution to the strength of Canadian national life in all its best aspects. (Applause.) Consequently, if we really possessed the genius of nation-making, measures would long ago have been taken to draw upon the reservoirs of French instruction to be found in a province containing two and a half million people, and today Canada would have the advantage of a bilingual psychology, with two sympathetic races under one flag. Personally he would be very happy if French were a regular subject of instruction in every elementary English school, and English in every elementary French school.

Prof. Derick thought that to pass over the resolution without action would be a mistake and would look as if the Council were going back upon the attitude approved at Winnipeg.

Prof. Osborne suggested the following: "That this Council regards with favor every effort being made anywhere in Canada in the direction of the promotion of better racial feeling in this Dominion by the improved cultivation of French and English."

Principal Vance said the Winnipeg Conference had expressed its opinion in favor of a very ideal situation, but obstacles would be encountered in working out the details. He would like to see the matter left in abeyance at least until the next conference.

Dr. Parmelee declared that so far as concerned the province of Quebec, no possible encouragement could make it do more than it was now doing, or intended to do in the future. The ideal of the French people of Quebec was to have English taught even in the elementary grades in all the French schools, although because of the difficulty experienced in some districts in securing properly qualified teachers, the ideal was not always attainable. Similarly, in the English elementary schools French was taught. He reminded the Council of the most favorable comments made by the French press on the Winnipeg resolution. It was taken as an indication of cordiality and a gratifying recognition of their language. A resolution reaffirming this attitude would have the same effect, but no other, on the province of Quebec. However, he deferred to the opinions of those who thought such a motion would do more harm than good.

Prof. Derick urged that at least the resolution suggested by Dean Coleman should be adopted.

It was finally decided, by vote, to take no further action for the present.

On the resolution: "Therefore be it resolved that it is the duty of the Federal Government to assume without avoidable delay their share in the financial burden incidental to the Canadianizing of an immigrant population by providing suitable special Dominion grants to be expended and administered by the Provincial Government concerned."

Dr. Sloan stated that the resolution recommended a widening of the interpretation of the Federal Government's functions in respect of education, and some persons might see in the new principle an amendment of the Canadian constitution. At any rate, the question was of peculiar interest to the people of the lower provinces, for the proposal was that certain of the provinces should be the gainers through the action taken by the National Conference.