

It is a means of enabling us to dwell in peace with our English neighbors, whilst safe guarding our rights, developing our resources, strengthening us, and making us ready for our national future. Let us say it boldly—the ideal of the French Canadian people is not the ideal of the other races which to-day inhabit the land our fathers subdued for Christian civilization. Our ideal is the formation here, in this corner of the earth watered by the blood of our heroes, of a nation which shall perform on this continent the part France has played so long in Europe. Our aspiration is to found a nation which, socially, shall profess the Catholic faith and speak the French language. That is not and cannot be the aspiration of the other races. To say then that all the groups which constitute Confederation are animated by one and the same aspiration, is to utter a sounding phrase without political or historical meaning. For us the present form of government is not and cannot be the last word of our national existence. It is merely a road towards the goal which we have in view; that is all. Let us never lose sight of our own national destiny. Rather let us constantly prepare ourselves to fulfil it worthy at the hour decreed by Providence, which circumstances shall reveal to us. Our whole history proves that it is not to be a vain dream, a mere Utopia, but the end which the God of nations has marked out for us. We have not been snatched from death a score of times; we have not multiplied with a rapidity truly prodigious; we have not wrought harvests of resistance and of peaceful conquest in the Eastern townships and in the border counties of Ontario; we have not absorbed many of the English and Scotch settlements planted among us in order to break up our homogeneity; we have not put forth all these efforts and seen them crowned with success, to go and perish miserably in any all-Canadian arrangement.”

Is that plain? Is there any doubt about that meaning? Now, I could read you others. Mr. Laurier came to Toronto, as you know, a little while ago, and he announced there very liberal sentiments. He returned to his Province to be met by denunciation from *La Verité*, which said his were not French Canadian sentiments. He was also denounced by *La Presse*. He had to go into a fight in the constituency of Richelieu, rendered vacant by the death of Captain Labelle, and was beaten by over 400 hundred, probably on account of the views he had proclaimed at Toronto. The policy has been generally proclaimed by the leading newspapers and men of the Province that a French nationality is desired. I acknowledge, and I have the right to assume, that when these gentlemen tell us, as one or two of them have announced, that they have no such ambition, they are speaking the honest truth; but if they have no such ambition what are we to say of Mr. Mercier's position? It is said he is doing it to keep himself in power. Why, if he is doing it to keep himself in power, he is pandering to the wishes of his fellow-countrymen. (Applause.) We must face this aspiration of his fellow-countrymen. We must cry out against it, and we must do it by banding ourselves together; not to do