

we can all testify. I for one am greatly sensible how much both of benefit and pleasure I have derived from contact with the eminent men having French for their mother-tongue whom I have met here, some of whom have passed away, but whose names are not forgotten.

It was sound statesmanship, even if we look for nothing higher to create two literary sections, one for each language, as a testimony to the belief in the permanent co-existence of both languages, and so diminish and help to remove a certain nervousness on the subject which is now fading away, if not wholly departed; but which I believe would not have arisen, if many could have had the same experience as I had some years ago; to my own great astonishment, I admit.

It will be acknowledged that if the whole French-speaking population of Canada could be transferred to England and settled there within five or six hours of London, there would be much greater probability of the absorption of the French language than under present conditions. Well, you will find actually in that position, a people about the same in numbers, with a language and literature which is not English and with an enthusiasm for their language and literature which is not exceeded anywhere; who have preserved both for more than six hundred years; a people who have great weight in the Imperial Parliament, and who are more than satisfied with their influence in it and in the Empire at large. Who are more loyal to the Empire than the Welsh? I might even say, who more devoted, maintaining it with true Celtic fervour? It is their own. Nevertheless there is a large part of that people who cannot speak a word of English. Books will give you no conception of this fact. You must go and live in Wales for a short time to appreciate the reality.

I spent a month there, near the chief centre for English tourists, and yet I was sometimes obliged to use the language of signs alone to try to convey my requests; with varying results. The only part of a symbolical sentence that was an invariable success was the exhibition of the Queen's profile on silver.

#### *Aid to the Government.*

There was a hope also that the Government would sometimes find the advice of the society useful within the society's own field. That the representatives of the people at large would take counsel with the representatives of that portion of the people who live on the hill nearer the sources of knowledge from which issue the descending streams that enrich and beautify the practical life of the community. And this hope has been fulfilled.

#### *Courtesy and Official Action of the Government.*

It is an evidence of the success of our Canadian constitution that the Government elected by the people, is shown itself without distinction