

should have been a united and powerful land, bound together by that strong national spirit, to be developed, according to my hon. friend, only by community of language; but what does history tell us? Can my hon. friend point to a nation in ancient or modern times that, for three hundred years, was more torn by internal dissensions—by wars, rebellions and fratricidal disturbances—than that Empire. Why, Sir,

GOVERNMENT BECAME AN ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY

in that country. If community of language would accomplish anything, there was its opportunity. But what did it accomplish? It accomplished the Treaty of Westphalia. The Germans, speaking German as they did, could not live together, and they dissolved the partnership, Prussia taking one section of the empire, and Austria taking the southern portion. If national unity of spirit or greatness were to be secured and placed on an enduring basis by community of language, there of all cases was one, even in comparatively modern times, that should have had the result boasted of by the hon. member for North Simcoe. They have not since been able to agree, though speaking the same language, and in our own time we have found those two German-speaking peoples falling upon each other, until at last Prussia expelled Austria, her sister country, from the German Confederacy as the result of the war which ended with the battle of Sadowa, in the last third of a century. Now, suppose we adopt the policy of the hon. gentleman, and go in for an obliteration of the French language. That is the proposition we are face to face with. The hon. gentleman has thrown down the gage of battle to the French Canadian people. This Bill is but a commencement,

A SKIRMISH BEFORE THE GREAT BATTLE

that is to go on all along the line later on. But suppose that attempt, absurd as it is, should succeed, do you not think that before making it, we might well turn up the pages of history again, and see with what results such attempts have been followed? In the consideration of this question it might probably be instructive to remind the House that when the French and Anglo-Saxons first came together, and an attempt was made to make one language prevail over the other—I refer to the period succeeding the Norman Conquest—for 300 years French was the language of the royal family, the courts, the schools, and, as much as possible, the churches.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. And the nobility.

Mr. MULOCK. And the nobility. Every effort was made to impose the French language on the Anglo-Saxon people. The result at the end of 300 years, at the time of Edward the Third, was that the French and the Anglo-Saxons

HAD BECOME STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER.

The lawyers in the courts were not understood by the witnesses, the jurors drawn from the Anglo-Saxons could not understand the