

Canada, and I cannot believe for one moment that he is responsible for that article, except in so far as he is responsible for what appears in his paper. I do not and cannot believe that he would sanction it. A man who devotes his time and very large sums of money annually to the care of children in Canada is not one who would be guilty of writing such an article as that, I further use the article to deplore the fact that such correspondence should appear in any newspaper with regard to the gentlemen who occupy seats in this House because I think it is a slander on every member of the Senate. Later on I shall read a speech which was delivered by the Hon. Sir Lomer Gouin in Quebec, which I think will be found to be perfectly inoffensive, and one with which no person in this country can find any fault whatever. It should be the object of every man in Canada, be he high or low, great or small, to do everything he can to bring about a good understanding, good-will and unanimity in every possible respect among the various classes of people who compose the population of this great and growing Dominion, and in my opinion those who act differently are enemies of this country. Every true Canadian is one who believes that we should have no east or west, that we should have no north or south. However, the far north will never do us much harm, but our east and west is important, and everyone who desires the upbuilding of Canada will try to harmonize the different interests throughout the Dominion. The same with language. The man who slanders our French population slanders a nation which has had much to do with the upbuilding of Canada, a nationality who have among them many of our very best citizens. Unfortunately there are Englishmen who scandalize their French fellow-citizens, and unfortunately among French Canadians there are those who do likewise towards those of English origin. That is most unfortunate. The aim of every true thinker in Canada should be to bring about harmony. I have no doubt there are gentlemen in this Chamber who will claim that this matter, being a controversial and delicate question, should not be introduced in this Chamber. If it were introduced as a subject to be dealt with in a legislative manner, we might very properly be told that it is a subject which is properly relegated to the various provinces. But, while that is true, on every social and every moral question, having in view the wellbeing of this

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country, it cannot be contended that we should be silent. This resolution is mild in form, harmless and kindly put, and I cannot see that there is any harm whatever in our expressing the hope that this vexed question, which is very unfortunately disturbing a large portion of our population, should be amicably disposed of. It would be entirely out of place for me to deal with the legal aspect of this question, and I shall not do so. Of course I am familiar with the Act of Union and with the British North America Act, and with what is referred to there as far as these matters are concerned. It is absolutely plain—I think any layman can assume that it is plain—that so far as the Roman Catholic religion is concerned, it is preserved to the Roman Catholic population, not only by the Treaty of Paris, but the articles of Capitulation of Montreal and Quebec. The question of language is perhaps not so clearly dealt with, but those who have studied the question believe that the French language also is preserved by these provisions. That matter I leave entirely to the legal gentlemen to dispose of, not only here, but in other places. It would be beyond me to attempt to deal with it, but as a matter of fact I am quite familiar with the French Canadian, his habits, aims and ambitions, and all about him. I was brought up in a portion of Canada inhabited by French Canadians, where English people were in the minority. All my life I have had large dealings with French Canadians, and I can say that no man familiar with their habits and manners, brought up amongst them as I was, would feel that there was any ground for discussing the question in the manner in which it was discussed by the Toronto paper. It would seem to me that a large portion of our people, not familiar with the French language or the French people, is desirous of obliterating the French language in Canada. There are those who believe there will be no such thing as an actual fusion of the races until the French language is obliterated. It seems to me that those who hold that opinion have a pretty big task in hand, because Quebec is a large and populous province, and it will be some time before they abandon their language. My opinion is that the barrier to the fusion which many people desire is not one in which the language is concerned so much as the religion. Inter-marriage would be the only means by which the actual fusion of races would be brought about, and the moment a French Canadian becomes a Protestant, inter-marriage is more frequent. Inter-marriages are not frequent