

stitution of Canada will not be amended by the Imperial Parliament in matters affecting the jurisdiction of the four provinces without their express consent given by their legislatures. Confederation was based upon a solemn contract, which is bound to be respected both in the letter and in the spirit.

The honourable gentleman has advanced two reasons in favour of national schools. The first reason he gives is that they would give us national unity, and the second is that we would have better schooling under a uniform compulsory attendance act. The second reason is decidedly of secondary importance in the mind of the honourable gentleman, because better schools and a compulsory attendance act have not interested him to the point of his ever joining in any campaign for improvement which we have been carrying on in the province. The main reason which has determined his action is to bring about national unity by the creation of a common national ideal. He has not defined his ideal. Is it a Canadian national ideal that he has in mind, or is it rather an Imperial ideal? If it be a Canadian ideal, then, speaking for the population of Quebec, I hasten to inform him that we have no lesson to receive from him, rather a newcomer, comparatively speaking, in Canada; nor have we any lessons to receive from any other province in the matter of Canadianism.

The honourable gentleman has told us that he was surprised to find during the war that there was no common national sentiment in this country. I very much question the genuineness of that surprise. The honourable gentleman knew very well the situation long prior to the war. So far we must admit that we have had individual aspirations and ideals, but no common national ideal. This is due to our colonial status, which has prevented a moulding from the one matrix of the Canadian soul. Two principal groups of the community have different minds and different feelings in this all-important matter of patriotism. As to the other small groups recently formed in this country, it is difficult to ascertain whether they have begun to ask themselves what they feel and what they are. It is interesting to analyse the sentiments of the two principal groups. I realize that the Anglo-Canadian knows very little of his fellow-Canadian of French descent. It is not inopportune that he should know him better. As we are destined to live side by side, we should endeavour to understand each other's point of view. The Anglo-Canadian's patriotism extends beyond Can-

ada, while the older Canadian, who is of French descent, concentrates his love of country exclusively upon his native land. These two attitudes are normal and quite natural.

The Minister of Immigration recently stated that his aim was to admit immigrants to Canada who could easily be Canadianized. He did not say what length of time he set for the forging of a Canadian soul. Time is an all-important factor. The Canadian of French descent has been here for two hundred and fifty years and more. If there is any true Canadian in this land, without a doubt he is that and nothing but that. His patriotism is exclusively Canadian. Like every other people in the world, he has but one patriotism, one country; and yet some people express surprise that he does not exhibit a love of three countries at one and the same time.

The Anglo-Canadian, who divides his love between England and Canada, sees in these two lands but one and the same country. It is not so with the descendants of those people who severed their connection with their Motherland over one hundred and fifty years ago, and who have concentrated their affections upon their own and sole country. As a Canadian, he is that length of time ahead of the Anglo-Canadian, and that is why he asks his Anglo-Canadian compatriot to be slow in expressing an opinion on his attitude. He would rather be judged by the great-grandchildren of the present Anglo-Canadians, who will doubtless then be on a parity with himself. What will the Anglo-Canadian be in one hundred and fifty years? As to his political status, God only knows; but there is no question that he will be less and less a European and more and more a Canadian. He will then surely have overtaken the Canadian of French descent.

I recognize that it is difficult indeed for one group to understand and judge soberly the other group, their points of view are so different. I have realized the difficulty since the beginning of the war, and I have endeavoured to analyse the sentiment of each group.

In order to demonstrate the dissimilarity of mind and of sentiment, I will give you my own cogitations in analysing my own feelings. I need not emphasize the fact that from the 1st of August, 1914, to the 11th of November last, my mind has been fully set upon war problems and upon the line of battle in Flanders and in France. After the victory of the Marne, I never