

sands. It was in consequence of this that Sir Etienne Pascal Taché rightly declared in the legislature that the last gun that will be fired for British supremacy in North America will be fired by a French Canadian.

It is fitting that when speaking of Colonel de Salaberry one should recall also the meritorious services rendered to the British Empire by another French Canadian, Sir Percy Girouard, serving under Lord Kitchener in the Soudan. He has been described as a great civil servant, and was commended by Lord Kitchener himself as an officer of brilliant ability. De Salaberry fought for Canada, Girouard fought for the empire. And I may mention also that numbers of French Canadian boatmen went voluntarily to Egypt and the Soudan, forming part of the military expedition that went to the relief of Gordon of Khartoum in 1885. I am proud that most of those voyageurs renowned for their skill with the canoe came from my own constituency of Three Rivers, and from the constituency of my good friend, the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Baribeau). Lastly everyone knows of the distinguished part taken by the French Canadians fighting under the British flag in the world war, at Ypres, Vimy, and especially at Courcellette. Therefore I say that the French Canadians, not only those of the province of Quebec but those of the whole Dominion of Canada, having shed their blood for this dominion and for the British Empire, are entitled, not as a favour but as a right, to public acknowledgment of their sacrifice by the use of their language upon the currency and coinage of the country, which was discovered and developed by their forefathers, which they helped to defend, and which they are still ready and will be ready to defend to the last ditch. Not only do they pay their share of the duties and the taxes necessary to the maintenance and progress of this country, but they have contributed their full quota of the blood required for its defence against the foreign invader and in order to keep it free under the British flag. I may add that there is no more incongruity in having French words on our currency and coinage than there is in having on the royal escutcheon of England since the days of Richard the Lion-hearted, the French motto, Dieu et mon droit.

Moreover, let us hope that the part taken by the French in the obtaining of our parliamentary rights, and especially in the framing of our present constitution, shall never be forgotten. Anyone acquainted with our political history, if fairminded, will acknowledge that

[Mr. Bourgeois.]

Sir George Etienne Cartier, a thoroughbred French Canadian, was a dyed in the wool Canuck, as much as his colleague and trusted friend, Sir John A. Macdonald, the promoter of our federal system. On this point I beg to quote Sir Joseph Pope, from his work *The Day of Sir John Macdonald*, at page 42:

Sir George Etienne Cartier was a man who devoted his whole life to the public service of the country. He was truthful, honest and sincere and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. Had it not been for Sir George Cartier, it is doubtful whether the dominion would exist to-day. He it was who faced at its inception the not unnatural French Canadian distrust of the measure. It was his magnificent courage and resistless energy which triumphed over all opposition. Confederation was not the work of any one person, Macdonald, Brown, Tupper, each assuredly played the indispensable part; but assuredly not the least important share in the accomplishment of that great undertaking is to be ascribed to George Etienne Cartier.

Again, I beg to quote, from John Boyd's book on Sir George Etienne Cartier, the following statement which will be found at page 299:

The supreme merit of George Etienne Cartier is that from the time the question was first pressed to the fore as a practical issue in Canadian politics, he strongly and persistently advocated confederation, that as Prime Minister of United Canada, he was the first to make the question an administrative one and thus to bring it before the Imperial authorities, that thereafter he consistently advocated both in and out of parliament, and that through his alliance with George Brown, the practical realization of the project was made possible. By insisting upon a federal instead of a legislative union, he not only safeguarded the rights and interests of his compatriots, but assured the success of confederation as a whole. Without Cartier, it would undoubtedly have been impossible to secure the adhesion of Quebec to the union and without Quebec, confederation would have remained a splendid dream but nothing more. When confederation was decided upon by the delegates of the various provinces, Cartier in the face of the strongest and most determined opposition, never wavered in his support, but pursued his course until the great design was accomplished. It was with pardonable pride that on the first Dominion day George Etienne Cartier emphasized the fact it was he who as Prime Minister of United Canada first made confederation an administrative project to the foot of the throne.

And on the same topic, I hope our colleague, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), will allow me to quote what he said in the speech he made at a Dominion Day banquet in London, July 1, 1914:

It should not be forgotten that if Cartier's cooperation made confederation possible, it was because Cartier was able to point out to those of his race and creed that the law which made it impossible for a worthy people to live on a