

set forth in Sir Lomer Gouin's speech, a solution will be found.

The Star of Montreal, and other English papers expressed the same views and gave the same advice.

The News of Toronto, suggested that the meeting of a conference between representatives of the province of Quebec and the Minister of Public Instruction of Ontario be held in order to come to some amicable arrangement.

Sir Lomer Gouin's speech which I have just read was made in support of a motion similar to the resolution which is now before this House and which was moved and seconded in the Quebec House by two English members, Messrs. Bullock and Finnie.

Let us listen now to the voice of a man who enjoyed during many years the confidence of the province of Ontario, Sir Oliver Mowat:

The French population contributed to the support of the schools, and the object sought could be secured a thousand times more effectually by respecting their prejudices, by respecting their love for their language, by respecting their desire that their children should be taught their own tongue, than by adopting a coercive policy (cheers). He wanted the French to learn their language, to study their language, to read books in their language, and he wanted them all to study the language and literature of England. The object aimed at could never be accomplished by exhibiting a spirit of hostility to the French population. Certainly not by proscribing the use of the French in the schools.

Sir George Ross said:

It is proper, it is just, it is desirable, it is natural that the children whose mother tongue is French should learn the English language by the intermediary of his maternal tongue.

Sir James Whitney has on record the following letter written to a priest:

25th July, 1911.

Reverend and Dear Sir:

I am directed by the Prime Minister, Sir James Whitney, to acknowledge your letter of the 21st and to state that no change has been made in the School Law or the Departmental Regulations affecting the study of the French language in the schools.

I am directed to point out that the question is one entirely under the control of the board of trustees.

(Signed) A. H. U. Colquhoun,
Deputy Minister of Education.

Please now give your attention to the opinion expressed by the late Hon. M. MacKenzie, ex-treasurer of the province of Quebec, in a letter written two years before his death, and published lately by Le Devoir, of Montreal:

I am fully convinced that the new regulations of the Department of Education in Ontario are contrary to the intent, meaning and

spirit of the provisions regarding education contained in the British North America Act, which has always been regarded as the educational settlement.

The requirements that after the first year, French speaking pupils must take the ordinary school subjects in the English language, seems to me severe and unjust. One does not need to be a practical educator to see that satisfactory results in the way of true education cannot be obtained from such a system.

The rights and privileges of minorities were very simply considered by the fathers of Confederation, as one may see by reference to the debates of 1865, and the clauses in the British North America Act, viz.: Subsection 1, and subsection 3, of section 93, regarding these rights and privileges, should be loyally respected and observed.

The freedom of the English minority in the province of Quebec in regard to its language and its schools has never been restricted by the French majority. In fact the Legislature has given to the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, the power to control the organization of Protestant schools, to prescribe text books and courses of study, and generally to be independent of the majority in scholastic matters.

I trust and hope that a settlement of the question in our sister province may finally be made in accordance with the same spirit of justice and right feeling and according to the true intent and meaning of the educational provisions of the British North America Act.

The same wish and hope has been expressed by many other English and Irish gentlemen who have had the courage of protesting against the extreme views of some of their countrymen. Our Irish compatriots cannot forget the patriotic efforts, the struggles and sufferings of their ancestors in order to preserve their native language and their national institutions. They cannot but sympathize with those who, under the empire of the same feelings pursue the same patriotic object. And they cannot forget that in their struggle for Home Rule they have had the sympathy of the French Canadians. They cannot forget that in the great calamity of 1848, when thousands of Irishmen died on our shores, hundreds of their poor children were harboured, brought up and educated by our priests and French families. I could name several of those children who, owing to that protection, have prospered and become good and eminent citizens. The French Canadians think they have good reason to rely upon the sympathy of the Irish population, when following their example they vindicate their rights.

Mr. H. O'Hagan at a conference in Montreal, gave some very interesting statistics in this connection. He said:

In Wales 46 per cent speak the Welsh tongue, and the natural language is taught to the children. In Ireland 641,000 speak the Irish language, which is now an obligatory language for matriculation and graduation in the Nati-