

of Scotch descent. I must be allowed to repudiate in the strongest terms the narrow sectionalism which appears to have taken such strong hold of some people, as entirely repugnant to the development of a national spirit and the unification of the people of this country. (Applause). As Anglo-Saxons we are in the majority, and we should not only be manly and chivalrous, but we should be generous as well, to this minority. It is certainly no proof of our right to supremacy to be sectional and autocratic. We shall, therefore, as a Government, deal with this question not according to the course laid out for us by designing agitators, but we trust in a calm, dispassionate and reasonable way, assuring ourselves at every step that no public interests are sacrificed or no private right ignored. (Loud applause). (2) We

SHALL NOT PROHIBIT ABSOLUTELY

the study of French or German in any school where the local wants of the population render a knowledge of these languages desirable or necessary. The policy enunciated by Mr. Craig in the House last session we do not propose to accept. (Cheers). He demanded that there should be but one language taught in our Public Schools. We think such a policy would be arbitrary and unwise. Germany has tried it in Alsace and Lorraine with doubtful effect. Russia has tried it in Poland also with doubtful effect. Our course will be after different proceedings. If the British Government can tolerate French in the Channel Islands, Welsh in Wales, Gaelic in Scotland and Erse in Ireland, without endangering her institutions, we can surely allow our French and German fellow-citizens to receive instruction in the language which for social and domestic purposes, and even in some cases for business purposes, is a matter of considerable importance to them. (Hear hear). (3) We do not propose to regard our French and German fellow-citizens as barbarians and reactionary simply because they do not speak the English language as fluently as we do, or because they may not adopt in every respect the forms and customs of our race.

I MUST THEREFORE RESENT

—and I desire to do it in the strongest terms—the language used by a correspondent of *The Toronto Telegram*, in which, speaking of the Counties of Prescott and Russell, he said,

“The traveller who finds himself in this Providence-forsaken hole at evening may well pale with anxiety at the prospect of spending a night in any of the low-walled, ramshackled apologies for home which meet his gaze. If the houses themselves are not sufficiently repulsive, a glance at the inhabitants would certainly decide him in favor of taking to the woods for his lodgings.