

Sir Wilfrid said, "In any case, when I am in the grave, it can be inscribed on my tomb, 'Here lies a man who desired to make the Canadian family a united family under the same flag.'" Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, speaking at Berlin, said, "We are proud of our forefathers, and every citizen of this country who reads history should be grateful to the French pioneers, missionaries, and *coureurs des bois* for their early struggles. Remember that in those days the Jesuits, the Recollets and other orders traversed the land, undaunted by trackless forests, terrible privations, merciless foes, and appalling loneliness, pushing the work of evangelization wherever human beings were to be found or souls to be saved." And a voice from the other side in politics may be quoted. Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition in parliament, speaking at Toronto on September 22nd., 1903, said, "We, throughout Canada, should not only know our own country, but know our own people. There is a motto which was described by men of old as having come from Heaven, 'Know thyself,' and I would say to Canadians that a good proverb for Canada and one that would make for national unity and harmony is 'Know each other.'" Mr. Lemieux's words bring us back to the days of the French pioneers in the first centuries of Canada.

The French occupation of Canada began, continued, and ended in disaster. From the year Cartier first wintered on Canadian soil until the French occupation for all practical purposes ceased, after the battle of the Plains of Abraham, on September 13th., 1759, the story is one of an almost continual series of losses, mistakes, and mishaps. Many perished from exposure, hunger, and disease in the first attempts to plant colonizing settlements and trading posts. More perished by the tomahawk, scalping knife, and torch of the Indians. The country was rarely free later on, either from war with the Iroquois or other tribes, or invasion from the English colonies, or internal dissensions, maladministration, and pillaging by high officers. Plagues, pestilences, and famines often reduced the scanty population to the