

Common Sense.

The Governor-Generals of Canada,

since Lord Elgin, have all, Lord Dufferin included, proclaimed the necessity of knowing both official languages in our bi-lingual country.

Lord Dufferin,

formerly Governor-General of Canada, ex-ambassador of England to Italy and France, one of the great statesmen who honored the British Empire during the last century, said in a speech that became famous:

"It is true that the racial differences existing in Canada complicate to a certain extent the problems statesmen have to solve from time to time; but the inconvenience resulting from this state of affairs are more than counterbalanced by the many advantages deriving therefrom. I do not believe that ethnological homogeneity is a flawless boon to a country. It is unquestionable to say that the less attractive side of the social character of a great portion of the populations on this continent, is the uniformity offered by many of its divers aspects; and I believe Canada should be happy to rely on the co-operation of different races. The mutual action of the national idiosyncrasies introduces in our existence a variety, a color, an eclectic impulsion that would otherwise be impossible to attain. It would be an utterly impolitic policy to strive for their disappearance."

Lord Grey, Governor-General of Canada,

while visiting Victoria School, Quebec, in October, 1910, pointed out to the pupils:

"that it was just as much in the interest of English speaking Canadians to learn French as it was for the French to learn English."

Lord Elgin to Lord Grey,

Montreal, May 4th, 1848:

"I am very anxious to hear that you have taken steps for the repeal of so much of the Act of Union as imposes restrictions on the use of the French language. . . . I must, moreover, confess that I, for one, am deeply convinced of the impolicy of all such attempts to denationalize the French. Generally speaking, they produce the opposite effect from that intended, cause the flame of national prejudice and animosity to burn more firmly. . . . You may perhaps americanize, but, depend upon it, by methods of this description you will never anglicize the French inhabitants of the Province."