

against French domination—could not be altered without the assent of a majority of their members. I have no hesitation to state, Mr. Speaker, that if this Union is to be maintained, we must take into account these distinctions as much as possible. This Union rests on a diversity of interests, national, religious, educational and social, and these interests must be represented. Those conversant with history know that one of the main causes of the political commotion of 1837 was the fact that the French element was not fairly represented in the Legislative Council or in the Public Service. That grievance is set forth in very strong terms in the celebrated ninety-five Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada in 1833. Those conversant with history know also that when that worthy Governor, Sir Charles Bagot, undertook with so much success to conciliate Lower Canada, one of his first acts was to confer some of the most important offices on those in whom the people had the greatest confidence. Let us not repeat that page of our history. Let us benefit by experience. It is true that these distinctions of race may complicate to a certain extent the problems of government, but their inconveniences are counterbalanced by still greater advantages. Lord Dufferin has, expressing an opinion on that subject well worth recalling, said :

“I do not think that ethnological homogeneity is an unmixed benefit to a country. Certainly the least attractive characteristic of a great portion of this continent is the monotony of many of its outward aspects, and I consider it fortunate for Canada that her prosperity should be founded on the co-operation of different races. The interaction of national idiosyncrasies introduces into our existence a freshness, a variety, a color, an eclectic impulse which otherwise would be wanting; and it would be most faulty statesmanship to seek their obliteration. My warmest aspiration for that Province has always been to see its French inhabitants executing for Canada the functions which France herself has so admirably performed for Europe.”

Before concluding I will take this opportunity to refer to a statement made some time ago by the hon. leader of the Opposition, in the course of an answer to the congratulatory address presented to him by the Liberal Association of Ottawa :

“I thank you for the very kindly allusion to my father. I am old enough to remember, though I was but a young lad at the time, those days in which we took part in the great events to which your address has alluded. I was in Montreal a portion of the time, and saw and was much with some of the leaders of that day, Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Baldwin. I remember the spirit which animated these men then and for some time afterwards. I remember the strong phalanx of Lower Canada Liberals who were then the backbone of Liberal Government.”

Times have changed, as, no doubt, the hon. gentleman feels it severely when he contemplates the much mutilated band from Lower Canada—not even a corporal's guard—which surrounds him. But how can he expect that this small band