

INTRODUCTION

Language is at once the symbol and medium of national culture. The language question in Canada is not then simply which of two or more tongues shall be the means of communication. It is a question as to whether certain types of culture will survive or perish—a question as important to the older Canadian people as to the newly-arrived immigrants. Consciously or subconsciously this is doubtless the reason why the interest in this problem has been so deep.

The older English-Canadian has maintained that there must be a united Canada. He has recognized that this meant a common language. Unfortunately, knowing only one language, he has not realized what other languages have meant or might mean. Other groups, treasuring their own languages and all for which their own languages stand, have sometimes failed to grasp a higher Canadian ideal and, disregarding other considerations, have spent their energies in maintaining the "rights" of their particular groups. Lack of mutual understanding has generated heated controversy and thus precluded the discovery of a means by which both ideals might be realized. Policies have been determined by political expediency rather than by considerations of national welfare.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Sissons has made a valuable contribution to the solution