

lish, and that a similar procedure be followed in connection with government bonds and paper money.

At the outset may I be allowed to express my amazement—and no doubt that of many other hon. members who feel as I do—concerning the present attitude of the hon. member for Bellechasse. It seems very strange that while the Liberal party was in power he did not deem it proper to make the motion we now have before us. Even had he been sure that his motion would have been rejected by the Liberal majority, he should have recalled to his mind the celebrated verse of the French poet, "L'effort est bien plus beau lorsqu'il est inutile"—the endeavour is much more beautiful when it is useless.

The words used by the hon. member in presenting his motion are such that they may arouse a hostile attitude in the minds of some English speaking members. I am well enough acquainted with the sense of justice and the spirit of fairness of English speaking members to know that they would readily vote in favour of any proposition which would be in accordance with our constitution and the vested rights of French Canadians. Moreover, I know they will take into account the part which in the past French Canadians have contributed to the national life and progress of Canada. I say however that we would not be wise to lead our English speaking fellow citizens to infer either from words or deeds that by that motion the French speaking Canadians intend to defy or disapprove any of their own beliefs.

Though I have definite views on this question, for reasons which I purpose laying before the house I must say I dissent from one of the reasons set forth by the hon. member for Bellechasse in support of his motion. I refer to his observations concerning the danger of Canadians becoming Americanized. At present we are on excellent terms of friendship with our neighbours, and it is necessary that our intercourse with them should remain cordial. In my humble view we should consider the legal aspect of the matter, and ascertain whether, keeping in mind not only the letter but also the spirit of the British North America Act this motion may be adopted.

In the first place I should like to draw the attention of the house to the fact that if the text of section 133 of the British North America Act relates to the use of both the French and the English language in the federal parliament and the Quebec legislature, one should not apply the old maxim of legal interpretation: "Inclusio unius fit exclusio

alterius." In fact, the British North America Act does not contain any article or enactment concerning the stamping of our coins or the printing of our paper money or our government bonds. The only reference to our currency and coinage in the act is in subsection 14 of section 91, which states that the exclusive authority of the federal parliament includes the following matters, namely, "currency and coinage." No other words are added, and there is no statement to the effect that when exercising the powers contained in this section the federal parliament should use only the English language or both the French and English languages. Therefore if our colleagues of British descent are like their predecessors, and, in a most generous way, are ready to acknowledge the large contribution made by the French Canadian element to the birth, maintenance, safeguarding and development of Canada, our common and beloved fatherland, they have now once more an opportunity to show their natural broadmindedness. In other words, to use an expression with which they are more familiar, they have an opportunity to extend to us the principle of British fair play. No law forbids them to do so.

May I add that by so doing they would be acting in accordance with the spirit of the federal covenant of 1867, and would be following the example shown by the fathers of confederation. It may not be inappropriate at this point to quote the words of Joan of Arc, who said concerning her pennant: "It was where trouble was, so it is just that it should be where honour is." The same may be said of the French Canadians. They fought shoulder to shoulder and with equal bravery in the company of their English compatriots, and acquitted themselves honourably in the struggles and battles for the security of this land. May I be permitted to recall, following the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) that during the American invasion of 1775 French Canadians as well as English Canadians victoriously repulsed the attacks of the armies commanded by Montgomery and Benedict Arnold? It was owing to the courage and skill of the French Canadians who escorted him that Governor Carleton succeeded in leaving Montreal, which the Americans had taken, and reaching Quebec, which was then the capital of Canada. In the war of 1812 our birth-right in liberty was preserved not only by General Brock but also by Colonel de Salaberry on the celebrated battlefield of Chateauguay, where with his well disciplined French Canadian voltigeurs about three hundred strong he defeated the Hampton American contingent of thou-