

been a precious and invaluable aid in their careers, in the struggle of life, in pursuit of prosperity and happiness, in their social and political relations, as well as their daily intercourse, and also in the accomplishment of that pre-eminent patriotic work of creating and maintaining between the different elements of our population, the best relations in all forms; and thereby solidifying the bonds of concord and harmony so indispensable in Canada. A thorough knowledge of the two languages, English and French, has been the most fruitful and substantial bond of union between the two races that constitute the majority of this country. It was the equal knowledge of English and French that made possible, or rather that produced, the good understanding, the concord and the union between the two races; without that two-fold knowledge neither one nor the other of the two elements could have created or maintained that understanding and that union so essential to the prosperity and the future of Canada.

"Despite the apprehensions or the prophecies of certain people, the British Government firstly, and our Government later on, were not mistaken in sanctioning the official use of the French language and placing it on equal footing with the English. And the proof of this is written in almost every page of our history since the Cession; only the wilfully blind—and, happily, they are becoming more and more scarce—will not allow themselves to be convinced of this fact. Far from affecting our duty or hindering our devotion to the British Crown and British institutions, the free use of our mother tongue, with the recognition and consent of our laws and our institutions, has been the pure source whence we had the will, the courage and the valor which enabled us more than once to save this country for the Empire. Had the French language not been equal before the law in the past, I would not hesitate to say that to-day it would be an act of simple justice and of profound political wisdom, to recognize it as such. . . ."

*Answer to Hon. Mr. Foy.*

The Hon. Mr. Foy, Attorney General of the Province of Ontario, having handed to the press, for publication, the following "carefully prepared statement":

"I desire to give my views on the question of the schools and to to put them briefly and clearly. To avoid imperfect reporting, I have written them down and will hand this to the Press.

"My views are that the English language should be thoroughly taught in our schools to every pupil by teachers fully competent to teach English.

"That no other language should be taught in these schools.

"That such is the law that should govern us.

"That there cannot lawfully be any bi-lingual schools in the Province of Ontario, and if any are found they must cease to exist, and care should be taken to make all schools conform to the law.

"I wish to add that this policy is not one that is in the slightest way unfriendly to any portion of the community, but, on the contrary, is in the interest and for the benefit of each one of the rising generation. It will remove what would otherwise be a drag on many a youth in the race of life, and enable him to fairly compete with his fellows on an equal footing."

"L'Association Canadienne Française d'Education d'Ontario, (The French-Canadian Educational Association) desires to lose no time in expressing the great surprise to all of its members that such a statement, involving as it does the cruel, arbitrary, unjust and sweeping denial of the elementary natural, as well as constitutional, rights of at least ten per cent. of the people of this Province, should emanate from one holding the responsible position of Attorney General of the province.