

Ontario or in Quebec, for opportunities to learn it. All that we ask is that the inhabitants of French origin be not deprived of learning their own language as well.

To put it in the words of the French Canadian Association of Ontario, French-Canadians are asking:

1. The respect of their rights for the education of their children in schools supported with their money.
2. The efficacious teaching of the two official languages of Canada during the whole primary course in the schools or classes attended by their children.
3. The teaching of their children through the natural vehicle: the mother tongue.
4. The grouping by schools or classes of the children to whom their parents wish to have the two official languages taught.
5. Competent teachers capable of teaching the two official languages of Canada to take the management of schools or classes attended by the children whose parents require teaching of French and English.
6. Their part of school grants voted each year by the Legislative Assembly.
7. One inspection, Catholic and Franco-English, of separate schools attended by their children.
8. One inspection, Franco-English, of public schools attended by their children.
9. The granting of certificates to bi-lingual teachers who have successfully passed the examinations required by the Department of Education.

Again borrowing the wording used by the same association, French-Canadians in Ontario do not want (1) schools exclusively French; (2) they do not want to force English-speaking children or others to study the French language; (3) they do not ask for the introduction of a third school system in the province.

What objection can there be to education being given in the two languages in Ontario as it is given in Quebec, at least to those who desire to acquire the knowledge of both? Are we in the province of Quebec, who have been taught French and English in our schools, really inferior in Parliament, in the liberal professions, in science, in arts, or in any other sphere of life, to those who know English only? Is there any hon. gentleman in this House possessed only of the English language who would not deem it a great advantage to possess French as well? For my part, deficient as I am in English, no monetary consideration could induce me to forego, were it possible, such knowledge as I have of the English language.

Is there any ground for apprehension that the perpetuation of the two languages may interfere with the unity of the nation or

the building of a true Canadian nationality? History shows the diversity of races or languages is rather a cause of emulation between them and a source of progress. In France to this day there are old provinces where French is hardly spoken. For instance, in Brittany, the Breton, a Celtic language, is used by most of the people and is taught in the schools. In la Provence and in what is called le pays Basques, the Provençal or the Basque is spoken. Again, take Belgium, a country which for its patriotism and its heroism is to-day admired the world over; it is divided, as you know, into Flemish, of German origin, and Walloons, of French extraction. Their language is as different as English and French. Again you have the progressive and admirable small nation Switzerland, divided into German, French, Italian and Rhetian. They all speak their respective language; and it in no way interferes with their unity or national character.

Hon. members have already referred to the British Isles where different languages are commonly spoken and freely taught in schools. India could also be referred to in that respect.

A number of other instances could be given. In the Eastern States of the American republic, a population of French Canadians exceeding one million is to be found forming the majority in several cities and towns and speaking their own language. As the laws of their own state permit, they get naturalized, and they are as proud as any American born of their American citizenship. Some of them are Governors of their own state, elected and re-elected by English as well as by French-speaking electors. This condition of things is due, you may be sure, to the fact that they live contented, unmolested, and allowed to freely conserve what is most dear to them, their mother's language.

French Canadians are much more attached to Canada than is generally believed. If any English-speaking Canadians leave this country for a visit to England, Scotland or Ireland, he invariably says: I am going home. We French Canadians, when leaving for France, say nothing of the kind. Canada, Canada only, is and shall remain our home. There may be, unfortunately, in this country people who believe that means should be taken to cause the absorption as soon as possible of the French minority by the English majority. To those who may labour under this misconception, let me say that unfair treatment has always been the best

Hon. Mr. BEIQUÉ.