

I have stated that the question as to how the situation in Quebec has been reached is easy to answer. There has been for years what might be called a school of politicians, and this school includes a number of serious political students, who have been cultivating a sentiment in favor of French-Canadian nationality and a spirit of hostility to the English-speaking element of Canada.

This propaganda of exclusiveness, of isolation, of independence of Quebec, like that of the Sinn Fein in Ireland, has spread to almost alarming proportions. The movement has been among the young men and youths principally. The older generations are not, generally speaking, so much affected by it.

There has been a persistent campaign in recent years of instilling into the minds of the younger generation the notion that in some—unknown and it must be mysterious—way the French-Canadians are being oppressed and tyrannized over by the English of Canada, whose object is to keep them in submission and make them victims of, and subject to, Britain's international entanglements and foreign aggression. This, notwithstanding that there is not a single historical instance either in deed or motive, expressed or implied, to authenticate it.

On the other hand, the ideal of a French republic on the banks of the St. Lawrence is held up to them—a republic in which everything will be peaceful, happy and prosperous and in which the French-Canadian people will be able to develop to the full their own aims, their own culture and their own national manhood, one in which, too, they will be free and independent of, and safe from, their common enemy the English. Quotations from the speeches of French-Canadians politicians and the French-Canadian press confirming these statements can be produced and multiplied almost endlessly.

This propaganda has gone on unrebuked, even encouraged, by the natural leaders of the people in whose power it was to divert the current of political thought into safe and