

to the Empire and the world, and yet there are some who would like to abrogate the union now or in the near future. For the sake of brevity and clearness, the people of the Dominion may be divided into three sections:—

I. The British element. This includes all who desire to maintain the Connection for the present, or who wish for closer relations with Great Britain in the future, and also a certain small class who dream of a possible independence at some distant date. Of this great division of the people, which, with loyal Quebec, forms at present a large majority, Sir John Macdonald was the mentor, guide and inspiration. I believe that the existing Ministry has taken up the mantle of his policy, and are trying to bear out the traditions of his name.

II. The French-Canadians. Loyal to a flag which represents to them freedom of worship and of local institutions, the French-Canadians may be depended upon, unless led away in a temporary gust of popular passion, to preserve the existing union, but will have to be educated to the appreciation of closer political relationship with the Empire. Until very recently the Premier of the Province, and head of the Local Government, was the product of that disastrous agitation which arose mid a wave of fanaticism after the hanging of the rebel Riel. Pretending that such action was taken because he was a Frenchman, Honore Mercier attained power in 1886 upon his platform of race and of revenge. As a member of the Liberal party of the Dominion, Mr. Mercier obtained the active support of Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal Opposition at Ottawa, and has, in return, powerfully aided him in subsequent Dominion elections. As an advocate of free-trade with the United States and discrimination against Great Britain, coupled with public declarations in favour of independence, and as the leading exponent of both racial and religious fanaticism in this Dominion, Mr. Mercier cannot but be considered one of the most dangerous of the troubles which Canada has had to endure, and which she has successfully overcome. The recent elections in Quebec have, however, proven a revelation of the innate honesty and genuine patriotism of the