

therefore to infer that his object is to extend the French language and Quebec institutions throughout the Dominion? It would be as logical to say that because Sir James Whitney is an Anglican and a champion of the rights of Ontario his object is to extend his faith and the institutions of Ontario throughout the rest of Canada, including Quebec. Such statements as the one alluded to are on a par with a great deal that is written about the Province of Quebec. The habitants of Quebec are not the ignorant, backward and priest-ridden people that too many in the sister provinces are lead to believe. They are a generous, honest, simple-living, hospitable, freedom-loving people, with a keen interest in public affairs, desiring to have their rights and feelings respected, but at the same time respecting the rights and feelings of others.

Let those who think that they can give pointers to the people of Quebec when it comes to the discussion of public affairs attend a political meeting in that Province, and they will be quickly disillusioned. What is wanted in Canada is more of the spirit shown by the president of the Literary and Scientific Society of Toronto University, when in introducing Armand Lavergne to a Toronto audience he said: "We are British as you are British and we glory in the right of free speech accorded to all British subjects."

Whatever may be thought of Mr. Bourassa's views, there is one inestimable service that he has rendered. He has stood for freedom of speech and independence of thought. Political parties are a necessity, but when party loyalty degenerates into abject servility the interests of the people are apt to suffer. Had Mr. Bourassa been content to be a mere party slave he might have enjoyed the sweets of office. As it was he preferred principle to party and independence of thought and action to the holding of office, and public life has been the gainer. Let that be remembered to his credit. Everybody is at liberty to differ from Mr. Bourassa, but his views are at least entitled to be fairly presented. Let Mr. Bourassa himself explain what he aims at.

It was recently my privilege to have a personal talk with the Nationalist leader, during the course of which he fully and frankly discussed the movement with which he is identified. It was while he was reviewing the situation that I put to him the straight