

to be regretted, Mr. Speaker, but it's a fact. Therefore, in rising this afternoon, I trust that the hon. members who have so generously supported the resolution embodied in the various Peace Treaties, with a view to protect the Bulgarians and Czecho-Slovak minorities and all the Balkan minorities in respect to their language, should realize the importance of maintaining the two official languages in Canada and of making efforts to learn one of those two languages, that is to say French. It will be the surest means to promote unity and harmony between the two great races of Canada.

I do not propose to retain the House very long on the resolution which appears in my name on the orders of the day. The object of this resolution commends itself to the unanimous approbation of the members of the House and do not know any other proposal which could more efficiently promote the *bonne entente*.

Let me read the preamble. The first reason is as follows:

Whereas the French language is one of the two official languages of the House of Commons of Canada;

No one will venture to deny the truth of that ground.

Section 133 of the British North America Act provides for the use of the French language in this House and goes even so far as to make such use imperative as regards the votes and proceedings, the journals and reports of the House. The second reason is the following:

Whereas a great many speeches are delivered in French.

I have notice with pleasure that many hon. members have availed themselves, this year, of the right which they had to speak French. I congratulate them and I believe that when the resolution now before the Chair has been adopted, they may use the French language much more freely, because the English-speaking members who do not understand our own language will be able to read the translation of their speeches the day after they have been delivered. The third consideration is the following:

Whereas it is important that all the hon. members should be made aware of everything said in Parliament.

It is obvious that, in order to properly follow the discussion of public matters within these precincts, all the hon. members must understand the suggestions made on both sides of this House. The fourth reason is as follow:

[Mr. Archambault.]

Whereas a very large majority of the English-speaking members do not understand the French language.

Needless to dwell upon this. Many are the hon. members who not only do not understand French, but are unable to read it, and this leads occasionally to some very strange happenings. In the course of the session before last, for instance, the day after my hon. friend from Quebec East had spoken in French on the subject of the subsidy granted by the Government, to the Canadian agency in London, I met one of my colleagues, and here is what he told me in English. I shall repeat his very words, as they are so typical:

(Text.) It is too bad that Mr. Lapointe did not speak in English this afternoon, he is such an able speaker and it is always a pleasure for us to listen to him. He spoke in French and the only word I understand was an English word: "camouflage."

(Translation)—Well, Mr. Speaker, is it not obvious that the hon. member who not only did not understand Mr. Lapointe's speech but delivered himself of this ingenuous and candid statement that the word "camouflage" is English, is greatly in need that the French speeches be translated the day after they have been delivered, so that he may take cognizance of them?

May I be allowed, however, before I stop descanting as to whether the majority of the hon. members do understand French, to congratulate the acting Prime Minister (sir George Foster) on the magnificent speech which he delivered in French at the beginning of the session. I venture to hope that his colleagues will follow his example and that more speeches will be delivered in French on the other side of the House, as I realize that some of those hon. members are able to speak our beautiful language. We promise them, right now, to be considerate for the effort which they will make in delivering French speeches. I now come to my conclusions which are the following:

In the opinion of this House, the speeches delivered in French should be immediately translated into English and so published in the Unrevised Edition of the Debates which immediately follows the sitting of the House.

There exists, as regards the issuing of Hansard, something anomalous which has probably escaped the notice of many hon. members. When speeches are delivered in English, the text appears on the day following in the report; and in the case of speeches delivered in French, we have the text also in that same report, the day following. Therefore, the first edition of the