

discussion has lasted long enough, but with the permission of the House I will read a few lines from a newspaper published in one of the Maritime Provinces, to show that the French language is becoming popular there. In a recent issue of the *Moniteur Acadien* I find the following:—

“Friday last we had French spoken during a part of the sitting in our Legislative Assembly. The question was An Act to incorporate a Colonization Association. The Hon. Mr. Leblanc explained the Bill in French. He was followed by Messrs. Melancon, and LaBillois, who spoke in French. His Honor the Speaker, Mr. White, reported the Bill to the House in French, and the House itself gave its assent to the Bill in French, members giving their assent to the question put by the Speaker answering, ‘oui.’ Evidently the French language is beginning to inspire less fears to our fellow subjects of British origin.”

HON. MR. SCOTT—I was not present when the discussion on this question arose in this House, and before I give my vote I desire to say a word or two. I am not going to make a speech, but just give expression to the opinions I at this moment entertain on the motion my hon. friend has made. I think it is very deeply to be deplored and very much to be regretted by every lover of his country, by every true and sincere patriot, that this question of the abolition of the French language should have arisen. I know of no question that has sprung from so unworthy, so bigoted and so dastardly motives. It is due to the adoption of the basest of methods to disturb the political horizon of this country for the purpose of affecting public opinion in another Province, and I say, therefore, that no man who took part in originating this agitation is entitled to be called a true lover of his country or a true patriot in any sense of the word. We owe that North-West country to the French Canadians as much as to the efforts of any portion of the Anglo-Saxon race. Both nationalities shared in the acquisition of it, and I say it is a most ungrateful, a most ungenerous act on the part of the majority of this country towards the minority to adopt the policy they are pursuing towards the French Canadians the last few months, and I trust that history will hold in contempt the men who gave rise to this disturbing element in the community against a race who, for the last quarter of a century, have desired to grow up in amity and friendship with their English-speaking neighbors. This question did not arise in the North-West. When that country was acquired by Canada the

French were the dominant race there, just as they were in old Canada before the Union. In the old Provinces they surpassed us in numbers and position, having the key to the route to the ocean, and when we proposed a union with Lower Canada did they stand on their rights and endeavor to hold themselves aloof because they were in the majority? They said: “No; though we are superior in numbers and are entitled to greater representation, yet we love our English-speaking brethren, and we will invite them to join us in one Assembly on equal terms.” When the French were entitled to a larger number of representatives on the principle that is now recognized as the true one in representative forms of government, that is, that the majority should be represented by the greater number of delegates, they gave way on that most important point and gave us an equal representation. As times changed, and Ontario became the larger Province in population, the grasping spirit of the people showed itself, and they insisted on having a larger representation, and so Confederation was brought about. We all know that the acquisition of the North-West was more due to the French pioneers than to the English pioneers in that country, and when this legislation to recognize French as an official language was introduced into that country all men acknowledged the fairness of the principle. Recently, agitators have, for a base purpose, started this question of the abolition of French as an official language, and the agitation has been carried on all through the Province of Ontario, and even into Quebec, where it has been truly an apple of discord in what was, before the question was raised, a contented and prosperous people. This dual language question would have taken care of itself in the North-West in a few years. No man who has had any experience with the Lower Canada Legislature can fail to recognize that they have always been most tolerant of the views of the minority. Even in this House, day after day, when the Speaker proposes to put resolutions in French from the Chair—are not the French members the first to cry out “dispense, dispense,” in order that the recognition of their language may not involve delay in the discussions that may come before us? In the North-West, where the English-speaking people will