

The good English people say that the French politicians are corrupt ; the honest French retort that the English are hypocrites.

Both sets of performances are bad for the State and detrimental to public morality. Neither standard of ethics tends to develop in each community a sense of mutual respect and confidence in each other.

This deplorable lack of proper knowledge and thorough understanding between the two communities is strongly marked throughout Canada. Outside of Quebec, it is easily explainable and partly excusable.

In this province, in this city, it may be explained, it cannot be excused nor justified.

Although the French-Canadians are partly responsible for this state of things, truth compels one to say that by far the greater responsibility rests with the English-speaking community of Montreal.

Tolerance of the French. — Attitude of the English.

Confined in their opulent and closed quarters, proud of their shops, their factories, their banks, their Stock Exchange and their Board of Trade, strongly inclined to self-esteem and self-admiration, the English-speaking residents of Montreal, as a whole, have made no effort to *know* their French-speaking fellow-citizens, to learn their language, to understand their traditions and their aspirations, to observe with a keen eye and a sympathetic mind their qualities and their defects.

Very few of those among them who are well disposed towards the French — and they are legion — have availed themselves of the propitious occasions to express their good feelings in a tangible manner, and to enable the French to make that proper discrimination to which I referred previously.

In the full enjoyment of the amplest measure of liberty, of privileges, of public honours, which has ever been granted by a majority to a minority of different race, language and creed, they have never shown any thorough appreciation of that exceptional treatment.

Mind you, I am not referring to such rights or privileges as are guaranteed to the minority by the law of the land, written or unwritten. I mean those privileges which have been freely granted to them by the French majority, and never encroached upon, while the same privileges were and are still denied to the French minority, or taken from them, in every English province of Canada. I mean especially the numerous evidences of generous confidence given by the French-Canadians, in electing English-speaking representatives to posts of honour and trust.

A large portion of the English-speaking people seem to think that those privileges and honours belong to them by right of seniority, or that they gained them through their own effort or their outstanding superiority, and therefore that they have not incurred the slightest debt of gratitude towards the French majority.

This utter lack of appreciation, on the part of the English, of the tolerant spirit so frequently evinced by the French, their remarkable ignorance of the historical causes and the deep rooted motives of that tolerance, have contributed more than any thing else perhaps in making the French-Canadians grow stiff and diffident.