

might even say, anyone in Canada of the fruitful and extensive public activities of my colleague the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan), by whom the present bill was so ably explained last week. In the eyes of Canada, and especially French Canada, he stands out as a brilliant statesman, broadminded by nature and culture, actuated by a deep sense of responsibility and patriotism, and always taking, in matters of language and religion, the highest plane of justice, freedom, fair-play and tolerance, with a chivalrous leaning towards the weaker party, coupled with a keen fighting instinct. He has many times and for many years upheld the Quebec claim with his convincing eloquence and his extensive constitutional experience. And such a fight he has carried even to the point of personal sacrifice. Speaking for myself and my Quebec colleagues on this side of the house I wish to express to the hon. Secretary of State how deeply we all appreciate the fine and powerful support we have received from him in the past. It was an especially gratifying tribute to him and to the spirit of his bill that even such a brilliant and eminent personality as the distinguished member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) could not help supporting and praising the present measure in most emphatic and vigorous terms.

Now Mr. Speaker, I should like to discuss in French the present bill from the two points of view involved, the constitutional aspect and the technical point of view.

(Translation) I wonder, sir, whether the opposition which is unlatched against the bill—

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Is genuine.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): —is not entirely due to a simple misunderstanding. May I be permitted, sir, to review as briefly as possible the status of French, at present. First, we have section 133 of the B. N. A. Act which provides for the optional and compulsory use of the French and English languages. Section 133 reads as follows:

Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the houses of the parliament of Canada and of the houses of the legislature of Quebec; and both those languages shall be used in the respective records and journals of those houses; and in any pleading or process in or issuing from any court of Canada established under this act, and in or from all or any of the courts of Quebec.

The acts of the parliament of Canada and of the legislature of Quebec shall be printed and published in both those languages.

To summarize, section 133 of the B. N. A. Act, provides, first, the optional use of either

French or English in the parliamentary debates of the two Chambers and before the Supreme Court of Canada and the various Quebec courts; secondly, the compulsory use of the two languages in the parliamentary journals and reports of both Chambers, respectively, in the publications of the archives and proceedings and in the printing and promulgation of the acts of Parliament.

This section 133, and section 93 of the same act, which grant to provincial legislatures the exclusive right to legislate in matters of education, constitute according to the statement of the distinguished Senator Belcourt, whose memory is imperishable, the total aggregate of our legal rights to the French language, officially recognized, in Canada. May I, sir, further include sections 47 and 72 of the rules and regulations of the House of Commons, which read as follows:

When a motion is seconded, it shall be read in English and in French by Mr. Speaker, if he be familiar with both languages; if not, Mr. Speaker shall read the motion in one language and direct the clerk at the table to read it in the other, before debate.

Section 72 provides:

All bills shall be printed before the second reading in the English and French languages.

Let us now, sir, examine section 3 of the act and see if this section 3 does not add to the total aggregate of our rights. Section 3 of bill No. 4 reads as follows:

3. (1) There shall be a bureau under the minister, to be called the Bureau for Translations, the duties and function of which shall be to collaborate with and act for all departments of the public service, and both houses of the parliament of Canada and all bureaus, branches, commissions and agencies created or appointed by act of parliament, or by order of the governor in council, in making and revising all translations from one language into another of all departmental and other reports, documents, debates, bills, acts, proceedings and correspondence.

As the hon. member for Labelle so well pointed out in his splendid speech, the English version says:

It shall be the duty . . .

(2) It shall be the duty of all departments of the public service and all such branches, commissions and agencies as aforesaid to collaborate with the bureau in carrying into effect the provisions of this act and the regulations made thereunder.

Which means, if I am not mistaken, that, according to section 3, first, the bureau shall translate all documents—

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): No, all the documents that it is requested to translate.