

A real union of hearts among the two races in Canada was one of the prime ideals of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and one of his prayers for his native province. His views on educational reform were suddenly interjected into the debate in the Senate by his friend, Senator Dandurand. It was already known that Sir Wilfrid had become deeply interested in the demand for school reform in Quebec, and after Sir Wilfrid's death the Senator was able to assure the world of his leader's adhesion to his side of the controversy. The last letter he received from Sir Wilfrid had dealt with the details of the campaign which the Senator had undertaken, and of the opposition to it from the reactionaries; and it ended with these words, the first sentence in French and the last in English: "Vous êtes dans la bonne voie et vous avez touché la note juste. It is a long chase but you will get there just the same."

The adherence of Sir Wilfrid to the cause of compulsory education was not properly emphasized at the time it was announced in the Senate. The English papers of Montreal, in condensing Senator Dandurand's speech, omitted all reference to Sir Wilfrid's views. But the time is coming when his approval will be better known, and as the news spreads, it will surely have an effect which no amount of opposition can counteract. When the people of Quebec come to realize that Sir Wilfrid was not afraid of the operation of such an enactment for his fellow-citizens, they will more than ever understand how perverse is the opposition of the opponents. The magnetism of Sir Wilfrid's name will work wonders in winning public approval to the cause, and will show up the fact that just as in Lafontaine's time "le parti des éteignoirs" opposed compulsory taxation for the schools by sophistical reasonings, so to-day their descendants are in the very same way using fictitious arguments to oppose a compulsory attendance law, which is but the completion, not the destruction, of the existing system, and which will revivify all our education by assuring for all children equal opportunities in the elementary schools.

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