

homogeneous people living under the sceptre of the British crown has been but a "dream," that we don't want to be mistaken, as they will have no part in the work in that way to be accomplished, but they desired to build up in this country a French Catholic nationality, and that as the building increased it would have a peaceful conquest of the province of Quebec and of a portion of the province of Ontario. I say, sir, that when the leader of a great party, controlling the majority of the electors of Quebec, does not hesitate to declare this sentiment it is full time for us to set our house in order to meet the man who makes statements of this sort.

I observe that there has been a kind of spasmodic effort on the part of Mr. Mowat's followers to repudiate Mr. Mercier. But it was largely owing to Mr. Mowat that

Mr. Mercier Blossomed into Existence and occupies the position he does to-day. Can Mr. Mercier's position be assured were it not for the position of the Liberal party of Ontario to-day? It seems to me it could not. What was the reason of the existence of this Parti National? Why, when the traitor who had twice rebelled against his country had met the doom to which he was so justly entitled—that man who caused the slaughter of the bravest sons of this country and caused the expenditure of millions of dollars—had the equal and just law of this country executed upon him, those who would make a foundation of revenge for that constitutional exercise of the power of this nation without which it could not have been exercised, are undermining the liberties handed down to us by our forefathers. (Cheers.) What did Mr. Mowat do after that? I do not charge upon him that he sat down in secret in view of subsequent legislation, but met in conclave with Mr. Mercier. What I do say is that he and Mr. Mercier met together and they put their hands to the pulling down of that which is the arch of this Confederation, and without which Confederation cannot live, and declared that radical changes must be made in the constitution of this country—I refer to the veto power framed by great men and placed in the hands of the general Government of this country. I do not stop there, but call to mind the language of Sir George Cartier and the Hon. George Brown and other great leaders of parties who met together, and with whose assistance the great charter of Confederation was made, and ask if that veto power were not placed there for

Protecting the Minorities of this country. I say, it is the sheet anchor of Confederation, and without it Confeder-

ation cannot stand. Look at the doctrines of the Liberal party in Ontario and the Liberal party in Quebec. Look at the powers conferred upon these local bodies. According to the view of this man (Mercier) there might be established in Ontario, or in Quebec, a state church. Indeed there is a state church in Quebec, and Protestants might be compelled to establish that church. I say the veto power is essential to Confederation, and must be asserted again because it has been rudely shaken by the events which have taken place. There must be a radical change in the constitution, by which the powers of the local legislatures will be largely limited with respect to those matters dealing with minorities and the establishment of state churches in the different provinces. (Cheers.) Next I take the question of the French language in the schools. I shall point out that we ought, in view of what has taken place in the province of Quebec, not to permit the English language to be excluded from our schools, or any other principle to be recognized than that the teaching in these schools should be English and that French should only be tolerated for the purpose of giving a rudimentary instruction in the English language. Now, Mr. Mowat has been charged throughout the country with breaking the regulations of the department, and has attempted to throw the responsibility upon the late Dr. Ryerson, and he has been quoting to show that the department recognized the French language in years gone by. But

He Only Quotes a Portion

of what he ought to have quoted. In the quotation which he gave he would lead the public to think that it was always competent for a man who did not understand the English language to become a teacher in the public schools in the French districts of Ontario. This is not so, and never was the law. It has always under the law been necessary that any man should obtain a first, or second, or third-class certificate, and that he should be able to read in the English tongue. Let me read from the record that there might be no mistake about it, and I hope you will pardon me if my observations extend longer than they ought to. (Cries of "Go on, go on," and cheers.) The qualifications of third-class teachers are these: "English language and literature; reading, to be able to read any passage to be selected from the authorized reading books intelligently, expressively and with correct pronunciation; spelling, to be able to write correctly any passage that may be dictated from the reading books; etymology, to know the prefixes and affixes and principal roots." Then it is provided that "in regard to teachers in French or German settlements

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