

siderations, the English community of Montreal, having achieved such remarkable success in the sphere of business, should now have the nobler ambition to raise themselves above the inferior level of mercantilism and take rank with the cultured classes of all civilised countries, who make use of the French language as the international vernacular of all superior thoughts and aspirations.

Above all, he cannot understand why the English minority in Quebec should evince so little sympathy for the efforts persued by French minorities in the English provinces of Canada, in Ontario especially, to maintain their right of having their language taught in the schools supported largely with their taxes.

The French language in Ontario

When the Ontario government adopted their famous educational Regulation No XVII, before addressing one word of protest to my own compatriots, I wrote a personal letter to every English member of both branches of the Quebec Legislature and of the Protestant Committee of Public Instruction. In that letter, accompanied with a full copy of the Regulation, I called the attention of the representatives of the English minority here, to the contrast between the liberty they enjoy in this province in respect of education, and the harsh treatment meted out to the French in Ontario. Finally, I asked their opinion as to the value of that regulation, from the treble point of view of moral equity, pedagogic efficacy, and conformity to the principles of Confederation.

The answers received from highly cultured men were unanimous in their condemnation of the odious policy persued by the Ontario Government. Prof. Dale condemned it as "*a violation of the spirit of Confederation*". Prof. Fryer called it an "*attempt to anglify the French School, in Ontario*",... "*a disregard of well defined rights*", and stated that it "*cannot be defended upon educational grounds*". Dr Leacock said it "*violated all the traditions on which the public policy of this country has been founded.*"

Those sentiments were echoed by Major Geo. W. Stephens, present candidate to the mayoralty, and by Mr W. D. Lightall and Mr John Boyd. But apart from those isolated sympathies, our protest found no response among the English-speaking politicians and "business men" of this province or city. One of them, Dr Finnie, M.L.A., had the candour to write that on the whole he thought those dispositions offered "*a great advantage*" to French children in Ontario. Mind you, dispositions that have been described by a distinguished English-speaking educationalist of Ontario in these terms: "Unless those regulations purport to eradicate the French language, they are the work of madness itself!"

True, a few articles, sympathetic to the French in Ontario, appeared in the Montreal English papers — one of them especially in the *Witness*, when still under Mr Dougal's management. But those articles generally contained nothing more than the expression of casual interest in a matter of secondary concern.

When the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society took the initiative of the