

Bilingual Currency—Mr. Gobeil

Mr. PERRAS: I was paired with the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. DUGUAY. I was paired with the hon. member for Bagot (Mr. Dumaine). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. YOUNG: I was paired with the hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Maloney). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I was paired with the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Embury). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. MacLAREN: I was paired with the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugène Fiset). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): I was paired with the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. Ferland). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. LARUE (Translation): I was paired with the hon. member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges (Mr. Thauvette). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

CURRENCY, NOTES AND BONDS

PROPOSAL FOR STAMPING OR PRINTING IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The house resumed, from Monday, January 30, consideration of the motion of Mr. Boulanger:

Whereas French speaking Canadians constitute approximately one-third of the population and have always evinced their attachment to the throne and British institutions;

And whereas their language, one of the languages most commonly used in international relations, is coupled with their culture and traditions, one of the essential elements of Canadian nationality, and establishes a characteristic that differentiates and protects our country against the dangers of Americanization;

And whereas the fathers of confederation had in mind and the federal pact demand the equality of the two languages: English and French;

Therefore be it resolved that, in the opinion of this house, in order to more clearly establish the distinctive character of the Canadian people and to better ensure its preservation, all state currency, notes or bonds should be in both official languages.

[Mr. Cahan.]

Mr. SAMUEL GOBEIL (Compton): The mover of this resolution having spoken in French, I have come to the conclusion that I should reply to him in that language, but I must say that in my opinion, for all practical purposes, the resolution is one that should have been moved in English. For that reason it is to be regretted, I think, that the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) did not move it in English. He knew, I am sure, that there were no converts for him to make among the French speaking members of this house, when he asked for a bilingual currency—and I use the words bilingual currency advisedly—rather than the words set out in the motion, because I doubt whether, in the present state of affairs and under world conditions, it is wise on the part of this house to express an opinion to the effect that we should guard against the dangers of Americanization. That however is something which I leave to hon. members who have more experience than I have. But when the hon. gentleman suggests that we should have a bilingual currency in Canada, I think I can say that without a single exception we are in favour of his proposal. Every French Canadian, the humblest or the most distinguished, will take a greater pride in the fact that he is a Canadian when there is equal proficiency in the two languages and when bilingualism has become an established fact recognized throughout the country.

If there is any need for missionary or educational work in this matter, as I claim there is, and I say this without intending any offence, it is certainly among the English speaking members of the house. The large majority if not all of our colleagues who speak the other language are broadminded men willing to do their share towards bringing about greater unity between the races. To convince them that our case is just and fair, it is only proper that we should speak to them in their own tongue. I fancy I hear someone saying that bilingualism is official in this house and that they should learn French, but in my opinion that is a most illogical reply, as illogical as it would be for an English speaking Canadian who might go into one of our towns in Quebec, where he might not be fully understood, to insist on people trying to speak his own language. It is in the best interests of all to be able to speak both languages, but it should not be forgotten that the learning of our language presents to our colleagues the same difficulties that we encounter when we learn theirs.

(Translation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take part in this debate. Although I do not endorse all that has been said by the hon.