

and establish Canadian harmony and unity? I agree with my honourable friend that the setting up of one section of the community to upbraid another, to keep up these racial differences, is stupid and useless, besides being most detrimental. What are the facts? The French Canadians constitute one-third of the population of Canada, and they are here to stay. Are you going to attempt to drive them into the sea? Are you going to prevent them from multiplying—from putting into effect the Biblical admonition? Are you going to prefer the riffraff of Europe to the people who have been here for three hundred years?

Only the other day, in the House where the affairs of this province are administered, one minister—the one primarily responsible for all the trouble in this province—bracketed the French Canadian with the Austrian and the German, making them all one deserving of equal treatment—or rather giving no better treatment to one than to the others. Is that the way to bring about unity and harmony in this country?

Some honourable gentlemen in this country—and it has been the subject of many comments in the press—are worrying because the French Canadians have no representative to-day in the Union Government. Nobody need worry over that. The French Canadians are not worried in the least. They are not anxious to have any representation in this Government. If the Government of the day is willing to treat them, not as pariahs, but as equals, they will join the Government to-morrow in administering the affairs of this country. What is the fact? The irritation is so great, so universal, that the Union Government has not been able to find a single French Canadian in either party willing to accept a seat in the Government. Is not that sufficient to make everybody pause? Is not that sufficient to cause everyone to look anxiously at the situation, and, as I said before, to thoroughly diagnose and try to understand and solve this scandalous difficulty.

I am not saying these things to be disagreeable. I am saying them because I believe I am a true and patriotic Canadian. I believe that Canada is destined to be a great country, but I also believe that it cannot be a great country unless we have that harmony and unity which is absolutely essential to greatness. It may be an exaggeration to say that conditions here to-day are so bad that they are not far removed from the conditions which have prevailed in Ireland for centuries past; but I do not think we are far from it. But honourable gentlemen are not willing to listen

to the warnings so frequently given. God knows they have been frequent enough, loud enough, but nobody seems to care. The people responsible have simply cast them to one side with a gesture of impatience or impotence; they have paid no attention to them; with the result that the gangrene has gone on increasing, and has got deeper into the body politic; and unless some operation is performed at once the whole body will be carried away.

I regret that I have taken so much time; but I must repeat that to me, however great, however supreme is our duty with regard to the war, the duty of creating and establishing national unity permanently in Canada is greater and more pressing, because unity in Canada is the basis on which unity of effort in the war absolutely depends. If you are going to have unity of effort you must have national unity in Canada. It is essential not only for Canada but for the Empire. People to-day are agitated with the idea of binding the British Empire closer together. How can that be brought about? How can you hope for any measure of closer union when you have such conditions in Canada as I describe? Outside of Great Britain, Canada is the most important part of the British Empire, and the time is probably not far distant when it will be the greatest part. In all conscience, in all seriousness, let us apply ourselves to the solving of this difficulty. I hope I am not exaggerating, but I have been deeply impressed for many years with the urgent necessity of something being done, and done at once. I venture to say that to-morrow, if the provinces which have taken these measures for the proscription of the French language would cease their persecution, there would be peace in Canada; you could have peace in Quebec; you could remove this terrible sore. I appeal to my honourable friends from that province to say if that is not the whole question. The French Canadian is determined to speak his own language; he is determined to have his own language taught to and spoken by his children; and why should he not, when he hears honourable gentlemen like my honourable friend from Red Deer (Hon. Mr. Michener) say that his son is not to be handicapped by the want of knowledge of that language? Let the question of French in the schools be settled, and I promise you that you will have peace in Canada.

With regard to the Union Government, I am not going to criticise it more than is necessary. I am not going to do anything to prevent it carrying on its war policy. So