

The result was that, two years later, several of the "Twenty-Three" came back and were elected, in spite of the fiery denunciations of the English press of Montreal. I should rather say, *because* of those denunciations. The truth of this is frankly acknowledged by Mr J.-C. Walsh in his latest "*Moccasin*". The truth goes further, and ought to be told plainly.

It was whispered, the other day, that the chief reason for which Major Stephens declined at first the candidature for the mayoralty was not the doubt as to his qualification, but that his friends had found out that he would be opposed by the *Star*, the *Herald-Telegraph*, and the *Standard*, and be assured of nothing better than the neutrality of the *Gazette*.

This was, I confess, a matter of surprise to many of us, French-Canadians. To think that our English-speaking fellow-citizens could be influenced, at least in municipal matters, by the three organs of Sir Hugh Graham, or any one of them, surpasses our powers of comprehension.

True, those journals have some influence upon the French vote — but not that which should frighten the right kind of Candidates. Thousands of French voters are prepared to uphold a candidate opposed by the tricolored staff of public instructors who draw their varied inspirations from the same sinister source. Likewise, they are instinctively disposed to boycott any candidate supported by the same influence. Rightly or wrongly, what has leaked out in the quarrel between Sir Hugh Graham and Mr Lorne McGibbon, the suppressed evidence in the Quebec scandal enquiry, the fuliginous and fugacious attitude of Sir Hugh on many questions of public interest, his apparent lack of conviction in all matters of national import, — have convinced the French electors of Montreal that this kaleidoscopic and greedy personage is far more dangerous to the welfare of the community than any of the "Twenty Three", or the whole of them in a bunch.

The idea that organs of public opinion, thus bought, sold, rebought and resold, and tossed up in that cynical fashion, for the sole purpose of bringing fat returns to the manipulators, can be and *are* the indication of the mentality and public spirit of the English-speaking community of Montreal; that such papers can exercise, and *do* exercise, an influence over the opinions of that powerful community — this idea in itself is sufficient to deepen the gulf between the two races.

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This brings us to the crux of the situation. The French and English do not know and understand each other thoroughly ; they ignore their best individual and racial characteristics ; they seldom meet but in the sphere of business or politics, where they are far from showing what is best in them. On the contrary, in those fields, they often display their worst tendencies : greediness, selfishness, instinct of domination, lack of public spirit. English sharks snatch millions and purchase governments ; French boodlers rest content with the small pilferings of the retail trade. The former hide their traces with care ; the latter show their spots with cynical carelessness.