

FOREWORD

There is no Hansard in the Quebec Legislature, and so no official record is to be found of the debates in the two Houses of that Parliament. Dealing as they do with local affairs, discussions that take place in a provincial House are seldom of interest to the people of other parts of Canada; but there are occasional outstanding exceptions, and one of these is the so-called Francœur debate. It aroused the keenest interest from one end of the Dominion to the other, for its subject vitally concerned the very structure of Confederation. The editors of this report believe that, by collecting and translating the various speeches made during that discussion, they are preserving a valuable political document.

The attitude of the Province of Quebec towards compulsory military service, and federal measures arising out of that policy, such as the War-Time Elections Act, aroused great hostility against the pioneer province of Canada, and against the French-Canadian nationality. In newspapers throughout Canada appeared bitter attacks on Quebec, on her people, and even public men on public platforms did not shrink from voicing these attacks. As was natural, the people of Quebec felt a reciprocal feeling of bitterness.

*We do not feel that this is the moment to go into the merits of the matter, nor is it part of our duty as editors to attempt such a task. We do, however, believe that the attitude of the people of Quebec has been to a large extent misunderstood by the English-speaking Canadians of the other provinces, and that the true way to a *Bonne Entente* is through mutual understanding and sympathy. The present report, published by two young men different by race who have thus met, should do its share to bring about such an understanding.*