

as a personal tribute but assumed that it was intended in behalf of the freedom of the press.

Ontario could hardly be roused to such enthusiasm in the cause of suffering and independent journalism, but, to the French-Canadian, there is something infinitely pathetic and inspiring in the spectacle of an editor imprisoned for a fervent expression of opinion. He will be a hero forever after in the eyes of thousands of nationalists and his political future is assured. Mr. Bourassa, his friends will be pleased to note, has by no means lost that vigour of expression and felicity of phrase which made his defeat a distinct loss to either Legislature or Parliament. Such an incident as the Fournier reception lends a colour and vivacity to political life which Ontario sadly lacks. Colonel Sam Hughes is now an Ottawa figure; Mr. R. R. Gamey has dined at Government House and is more interested in mines than in politics; Dr. Beattie Nesbitt no longer goes after the enemy and Mr. George E. Foster takes but a languid interest in the progress of the case against the *Globe*. Altogether, it is dull in the political and journalistic circles of Ontario and even an imprisoned editor would fail to stir the pulses of Toronto.

#### THE MEMORIAL TO BARBARA HECK

CANADIAN Methodism has honoured itself in the memorial recently erected near Prescott, to Barbara Heck, the pioneer of that church in Canada. Before the outbreak of the American War of Independence, Paul Heck and his wife, Barbara, had emigrated from Sligo, Ireland, and settled in New York. As their sympathies were with the British, they left their new home in 1778 and finally settled on the shores of the St. Lawrence. In the pioneer community Barbara Heck held meetings and taught the doctrines of her belief and when she died was buried in the churchyard of the Little Blue Church, as it is called, near the picturesque town of Prescott. This "God's acre" belongs to the Church of England and there the body of this early follower of Wesley has mouldered into dust.



This photograph of Lieutenant Shackleton and his party, was taken within a hundred miles of the South Pole, at the conclusion of their record dash South. This remarkable picture was taken by Mr. Eric Marshall, surgeon and cartographer to the Expedition. The figures from the left are: Lieut. Adams, Mr. Frank Wild and Lieut. Ernest H. Shackleton.

Those who were the pioneer educators and preachers in our country led a life of such stern toil and endeavour, such hand-to-hand conflict with nature, as we can but faintly understand. Such rude records of the time as we possess show what a force for cheer and enlightenment in the little settlement on the St. Lawrence was this Irishwoman, so loyal to her church and her country. The toil of woman has not often met with public recognition, since it is usually of that order which is known to a small circle. But all who have read of the heroic and faithful work of Barbara Heck will recognise the beauty and fitness of this latest memorial. FRITH.

# FRENCH CANADIANS AND IMPERIALISM

## *A Frank Discussion of an Important Theme*

By L. J. TARTE, LA PATRIE, MONTREAL

THE loyalty of French-Canadians has been widely discussed of late and is still commented upon by the press, throughout the Empire. Barrels of ink have been spilt and spoiled over that matter, by newspapers and writers. For my part, I sincerely regret that the question was ever raised, because I believe such an argument seriously detrimental to the interests of both French and English Canadians.

In most cases, when the French element happens to be doubted, the responsibility can easily be traced to politics. Some political men, in order to reap a temporary benefit for their party, have too often deemed it advantageous to challenge the loyalty of the French minority. And I must say that the two parties, Conservative and Liberal, share equally this guilt.

If our English-speaking fellow-citizens took pains to learn a little more about us, they would soon perceive how utterly devoid of foundation is the legend that has been circulated so long. First of all, they must bear well in mind that we French-Canadians are attached to this country, more closely perhaps than any other race. And how could it be otherwise? We are the sons of the pioneers on this land. We feel content to live here, and we have made up our minds that all our aspirations, all our ambitions are contained in this Canada of ours. Of course, we are proud of our race, and of course, we still keep in our hearts a sweet remembrance of the France of old, whence came our forefathers, but all the other ties are broken. You may question a hundred French-Canadians and ninety-nine out of that number will tell you they never wished for a moment the return of the French dominion. It does not even enter our minds that

we will cease to be British subjects. We are up to our contracts, and in exchange for the fullest liberty we are willing to give the fullest loyalty.

The true feelings of the French-Canadians are ignored by the majority of the population, and it is very unfortunate. A more frequent intercourse, I am sure, would lead to a better understanding. The time is coming fast when the two pioneer races of this country, the English-Canadians and the French-Canadians, will have to unite together or to be flooded. Everybody is aware of the fact that the population of Canada is becoming more and more heterogeneous. Thousands and thousands of Americans are crossing the border every year, and the Great West is already teeming with people of all races and creeds. To retain the upper hand in this land, which is theirs—by right of birth and by right of toil—the English and the French-Canadians have nothing to spare and it is not too much for their combined strength.

Indeed, it is already gratifying to see how considerably the relations between the two races have improved during the last five or six years.

For instance, while not so very long ago you could hardly find in the Province of Quebec a single English-Canadian who could talk a word of French, to-day there are hundreds of them who not only talk French fluently, but are accomplished French scholars. Our French language is held in the highest honour at McGill University, where it has even been made a formal part of the programme of studies.

These happy results, no doubt, must be ascribed in great part to the mixing up of both races in commercial life. Anyhow, they are significant; they show that a broader spirit prevails, and that

the English and French-Canadians are ready for co-operation.

And there is one thing on which too much stress can never be laid. In this juncture, anyone would commit a crime against the nation itself who would again attempt to stir racial prejudice.

To conclude this article, perhaps already too long, I would like to add a few remarks as to the position I believe the French-Canadians would be ready to take concerning imperial defence.

The question could be easily settled, if the politicians of both parties would only face it honestly, squarely, in its true light. Unfortunately, they waste their time watching one another and waiting for the errors, in excess or defect, of a political opponent. If there be such an undesirable amount of friction actually between two parts of the nation, we must not look for any other cause.

As to the French-Canadians, they are ready to view the question calmly and earnestly. Of course, nobody can expect that they feel in the matter the same enthusiasm as the English-born citizen, but they consider themselves true and contented British subjects, they understand that the part played by Canada in the Empire carries with it certain obligations, and that those obligations must be filled.

On the principle, all minds agree. Differences begin on the application. But I do not see how anybody should be scandalised at that. The subject after all is open to discussion and we have no right to question the motives of any one, French or English, who discusses it honestly and in the best spirit. There is no use of forcing a particular policy down other people's throats. Allow anybody to air his opinions freely, and, as we are all good, loyal Canadians, it will always lead in the end to the good of our beloved country.