

think that the excitement has now subsided? Is he of opinion that the agitation is about to cease, and that he may safely to-day do what he considered inadvisable two or three months ago? I ask him, is he any more justified in taking that stand just now than he would have been a few weeks ago? No; we would have been grievously amiss if we had given further cause to the agitation already on foot.

"If my hon. friend were able to point out in the constitution a single clause stating that the French language shall have official recognition in every province, I would be ready to agree with him. But he will seek in vain in the whole British North America Act a provision dealing with the French language in the same way as schools are dealt with. Schools have been put on a different footing. Exception has been made for them; but no such exception has been made as regards the French language.

"I need not tell my hon. friend of Labelle (Bourassa) that I am as proud of my tongue as he himself may be, that I am as proud of my race as he is, and that I am anxious to see it respected in the other provinces. If the French Canadians, however, are desirous that their rights be respected in the other provinces they should always be the first to abide by the constitution."

THE BILINGUAL QUESTION.

The Lapointe Resolution clearly expressed its whole meaning; the discussion in the House of Commons bore out its whole purport and intention:

No interference with Provincial Rights.—No suggestion of Disallowance.—No dictation—no coercion—not even advice—Ontario's supreme right to decide for and by herself is not questioned.—Every child must be taught English.

The principle of teaching French in Ontario schools is not at issue—that is

settled by the Conservative Legislature in the Law of Ontario to-day. Simply a plea for better mutual understanding of the law by which French children may be taught French in their own schools.

The above are the headings on an article published in the *Liberal Monthly* of June, 1916. The same issue contained a rather full report of speeches by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberals. The monthly is printed in separate editions in French and English and is circulated from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so its statements are read in both languages.

On May 10th, 1916, in the House of Commons, E. Lapointe, M.P., Kamouraska, Que., introduced the following resolution:—

"That it has long been the settled policy of Great Britain whenever a country passed under the sovereignty of the Crown by treaty or otherwise, to respect the religion, usages and language of the inhabitants who thus become British subjects;

"That His Majesty's subjects of French origin in the province of Ontario complain that by recent legislation they have been to a large extent deprived of the privileges which they and their fathers have always enjoyed since Canada passed under the sovereignty of the British Crown, of having their children taught in French;

"That this House, especially at this time of universal sacrifice and anxiety, when all energies should be concentrated on the winning of the War, would, while fully recognizing the principle of provincial rights and the necessity of every child being given a thorough English education, respectfully suggest to the Legislative Assembly the wisdom of making it clear that the privilege of the children of French parentage of being taught in their mother tongue be not interfered with."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in speaking to this resolution said that he did not