

The French people love their language, it is like asking them to silence conscience to ask that they forego the teaching of it to their own children.

I concede the right and even the necessity of the state to look after the education of our youth.

The child must have instruction, and that in no mean degree, if the man is to earn for himself an honest competence, and acquit himself of the duties which, for its own life and prosperity society exacts from all its members.

The family is one of the oldest organizations in the world, therefore do I say the imparting of such instruction is primarily the function of the parent. The Divine appointment is that under the care and direction of the parent the child shall grow in mind as well as in body. The state must come forward as an agent of instruction, but only when the parent refuses or neglects his duty, even then first principles should not be forgotten, since as I have already said instruction is primarily the function of the parent; the parent possesses the right to educate his child in the manner agreeable to himself, provided always that the education given in this manner suffices to fit the child for his ulterior duties to society. I do not purpose entering into details regarding the bi-lingual issue, nor do I expect that I could throw much light on it at present. However, I must say that my sympathies go out very strongly to my fellow citizens of the French Canadian minority in the province of Ontario when I note the generous manner in which they deal in Quebec with the English speaking minority. I cannot but wish that their example could without injustice to others be emulated in my own province.

At Confederation certain rights in regard to the English language was guaranteed to the minority of the province of Quebec at the same time similar rights to the French language were guaranteed to the minority of the province of Ontario.

Let me here read to you an extract from a recently published life of Sir George E. Cartier, you will then see what Sir George E. Cartier and Sir John A. Macdonald had to say for the protection of English in Quebec and French in Ontario at a time when these provinces were about to enter into Confederation. In answer to a question of Dorion's he said:

Cartier, however, apparently felt that the spirit of fair-play and of justice amongst the English-speaking members of the Government and of Parliament would always be sufficiently

strong to assure fair treatment for the French Canadian representation in the Federal Parliament, though the latter would be in a minority.

It was also explicitly stated by both Cartier and Macdonald during the discussion that steps had been taken to guarantee the continued use of the French language. Dorion had expressed the view that there was no guarantee for the continuance of the language of the French Canadians but the will and the forbearance of the majority. John A. Macdonald in answer to this emphatically declared that it had been proposed and assented to by the deputation from each province that the use of the French language should form one of the principles upon which Confederation should be established and that its use would be guaranteed by the Imperial Act.

To the remarks of his colleague Cartier added: "I will add to what has been stated by the honourable Attorney General for Upper Canada that it was also necessary to protect the English minority in Lower Canada with respect to the use of their language, because in the local Parliament of Lower Canada the majority will be composed of French Canadians. The members of the conference were desirous that it should not be in the power of that majority to decree the abolition of the use of the English language in the Legislature of Lower Canada any more than it will be in the power of the Federal Legislature to do so with respect to the French language. I will also add that the use of both languages will be secured in the Imperial Act, to be based on those resolutions." Thus it was made perfectly plain by the two leaders that Confederation was to be established on the principle of perfect equality between the two great races of the country.

These remarks by such eminent statesmen of that day is, I think, reasonably conclusive evidence that the French Canadian minority were to have some rights in regard to their language in the province of Ontario in the Dominion that was then about to be created.

I desire now to quote for this honourable Chamber the words of Dr. J. K. Foran K.C., delivered last St. Patrick's day in St. George's Anglican church in this city.

This was some months before the outbreak of the present war, and delivered by a man who has consecrated his pen and voice for many long years past to this very cause. On the occasion referred to, Dr. Foran said as follows:

"It is in the interests of the Empire I speak. We have heard and read, on all sides the praises of French Canadian loyalty; it has been established by facts that are indelibly written in the history of Canada; and were we to find the Empire in danger to-morrow those facts would be repeated from one end of Canada to the other, wherever a French Canadian is to be found. Did you ever ask yourselves what was the source of that extraordinary loyalty to the Empire on the part of a people whose ancestors were the pioneers of Canada but whose old motherland was France? Permit me to tell you whence comes that fervent loyalty. It has its origin in the gratitude of the French-Canadian for liberty accorded and