

lish. The meeting heard the secretary with pleasure and when the reading was over some of the French milkmen said: "We do not understand English; will you be kind enough to tell us what is the meaning of these regulations?" Some of the milkmen said: "No; it is not necessary that you should know, and you will not have them." When the French members of the association saw that their reasonable request was refused, although they belong to the majority, they left the room. The Englishmen who remained elected officers and appointed an English gentleman as president, and then adjourned the meeting until last week. Last Saturday another meeting was held. There were present nine English speaking persons and no French Canadians. The French had protested against the treatment they had received and did not come back. Then the English speaking members quarrelled amongst themselves. Five expressed their regret that those men who had always been good neighbors, had been refused a French version of the regulations. Four others said: "It is all right and we will stick to it." Among the five were the chairman, and they said to the other four: "It is useless for us to form an association, good-bye, we will join our French Canadian friends," and left the room. The four others remained. This shows as between two classes of the population how it comes that the French are always ready, at all times through politeness to give way to the minority. Even in Quebec we give way to the minority and grant them concessions to which they are not entitled, because we feel that we are strong and when we have to force the minority to do what is right we have the power to do so; and we like to give them what they are entitled to and we ask no more for ourselves. But as long as speeches are made by men like McCarthy and O'Brien they will stir up feelings of race and religion and intolerance, because we know very well that the French population at large will resent hearing themselves alluded to, as they have been during the last three weeks that I have referred to. You do not hear of us doing that in Quebec. On the contrary, Lafontaine, in 1841, went through Quebec and said to the people: "Be quiet; you are unjustly treated; you have been robbed, but you must accept the position calmly and send

men to help me, and we will fight it out in Parliament." They did so, and he fought it out in Parliament and got justice, and since that day we have always received justice from the Government on this important question. I gave notice that I would move an amendment on the third reading, but I believe that the best thing I can do is to divide the House in committee and also on the third reading; so I give notice that I will move my motion in committee and that I will renew the same motion at the third reading.

**THE SPEAKER**—Do you withdraw your resolution now?

**HON. MR. BELLEROSE**—I will withdraw it for the present, and move in committee so that the discussion can now proceed on the main motion that the House go into committee of the whole on the Bill.

**HON. MR. GIRARD**—You have heard an eloquent voice from the east, and have had a good deal of information on the question which is now before the House. It would be but fair and just that a voice from the west should be heard on this occasion on behalf of the claim of the French people to be allowed the use of their language in all parts of the Dominion. I regret that this question has come before Parliament. It is not a popular question, and it has been treated so exhaustively in another place, that it would be difficult to say anything new on the subject. However, I am very glad that my hon. friend from Delanaudière has taken the position that he has announced to-day. The French population of Canada have good reason to demand the right to use their language from one end of this country to the other. They are the descendants of those who opened up this Dominion to civilization, and I cannot conceive on what grounds they are to be denied any of the privileges or immunities guaranteed to them over a century ago. I think it would have been better, when this question had to come up at all, to have left it to the Legislative Council of the North-West to legislate on the subject themselves: then it would have come up in a proper shape to be dealt with here. I think they have the power already to publish their proceedings as they like, and if they exercise it no one will complain. What we feel, and feel