

our compatriots from the older parishes—principally from Beauce, where there is a surplus population—may be seen arriving every day, and buying the magnificent farms. This movement is so considerable that in numerous townships where, ten years ago, not a word of French was spoken, you would not be understood to-day if you spoke in English. Our English compatriots understand perfectly the significance of this movement. Witness Mr. Robert Hess, president of the Agricultural Society of the County of Huntingdon, who deplored, at the last meeting of the society, the departure of the English farmers for the West, and the abandonment of the soil of this Province to the French-Canadians.

That is how we have accomplished the conquest of the soil, that is how we have ousted our conquerors from the district of the Eastern Townships which they had reserved as if it were a strong fort, when they could send out the armies which were to subject us to the yoke of Anglicisation.

This conquest of the Eastern Townships is one of the most brilliant conquests of which we could ever dream. It was accomplished without noise; but the train of the Dufresnes, the Racines, and the Chicoyne has done more for our national future than many people whose patriotism is more exuberant than practical. Henceforth, from this citadel, which was formerly English, there will descend numerous battalions of war-like patriots who will not fear to face the combat, since they have already proved themselves victorious. Let all French-Canadians follow the example of those who went to conquer the Eastern Townships, and there will not be in the world a power strong enough to bar the path that we would follow.

What is true of the Eastern Townships, is equally true of several other parts of the Province. What is the

case in the counties of Charlevoix and Gaspé, where an attempt at English colonisation was made in order to bar our progress? There are there whole townships of *habitants* bearing English names, but not knowing how to utter a "yes" or "no" in the tongue of Shakespeare.

What is the situation in Montreal, that great city which is the centre of the industry and commerce of Canada? An observer cannot fail to notice that we have made enormous progress there also in the last half-century. Not only has an attempt been made to Anglicise us by surrounding us by a belt of British population; but when that attempt failed, recourse was had to immigration. By that means, it was hoped to counterbalance the incessantly growing number of the French population. This device did not succeed better than the others. And you will see that for having called in the Jews to their aid, our English compatriots will be the first to suffer. They will lose the control of their schools, as they have almost done already; they will lose here their financial and commercial supremacy, as they have lost it elsewhere. This commercial supremacy is, moreover, no longer so crushing as it was a few years ago. Do the people of our race count for nothing in gigantic enterprises such as the tramway, lighting, railways, navigation, banking, wholesale trade, etc.? I cite no name; I need only say: open your eyes and see. In a few years, with the support of French capital which is commencing to arrive for us, it will no longer be possible to say that business is exclusively in the hands of the English.

What we have gained from the point of view of the spread of our influence over a greater territory, and the diffusion of our language in regions where it had not been spoken before, is connected naturally with another victory, our victory in the Legislature.