

*LANGUAGE v. LAW.*

The demand made by the leaders of the French population in the Province of Quebec that all railway tickets, time tables, etc., should be printed in French as well as in English, makes very clear some important features in our political condition. How a railway ticket can be printed in two languages when the name of the place remains the same in either, it is hard to understand, but the absurdity of the demand only emphasizes its political importance. Two facts stand prominently forth which are worthy of the consideration of those who speak so fervently and eloquently of the unity of the two races, and the consolidation of the Dominion as its happy result. The demand above referred to having been properly rejected by the Parliament of the Dominion; and improperly and illegally, in our opinion, accepted by the Provincial Assembly, and having after some demur been agreed to by the railway authorities, is removed from present controversy, but remains to point the moral if not to adorn the tale.

The facts to which we would call attention are, first, the evidence given of the tenacity with which, even in so trivial a matter, the French Canadian holds to his policy of maintaining intact the use of his language, the independence of his race, and, secondly, the conclusion to be drawn from the easy yielding to so preposterous a demand by the railway companies, involving to them very considerable expense and inconvenience without any compensating advantage. When even a railway company has to take into account the loss it may sustain from the hostility of the population which it serves, based upon such trivial grounds as those above referred to, further comment is needless.