

*The Address—Mr. Meunier*

groups in this country entered Canada under a Liberal administration and were always treated with fairness.

Under the Laurier administration of 1896-1911, there was an immigration movement, and you have only to ask the Jews, Italians, Poles and others who settled in Canada then how they were treated.

Not one of them complained about the freedom they enjoyed, no more than they had to claim the rights and privileges to which they were entitled. All these persons were subject to our laws, were treated on the same basis as our other citizens and enjoyed the same privileges.

The immigration movement which had started under Laurier stopped from 1911 to 1921, mainly because of the war of 1914-1918.

Still for the benefit of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, the immigration was resumed under a Liberal regime, from 1921 to 1930.

Once again, it slowed down from 1930 to 1935 due to the depression and the high unemployment level.

From 1935 to 1945, the slack which had been felt during the previous period was not picked up, because, during those years, the Liberal government concentrated on putting the country's economy back on its feet, following which it had to face the problems brought about by the second world war.

However, immigration started up again after the war, and we had the good fortune of having a strong flow of immigrants bring us, as well as some capital, technicians, farmers and engineers who, through their efforts and special skills, added to the nation's wealth.

Speak to these people today and you will discover that they have never had any feelings of contempt toward the Liberal government which had helped them to find a new homeland. They are happy and satisfied with the life they lead, the freedom they enjoy and the benefits they derive from their rights and privileges.

For my part, I have in my constituency some 6,000 Italian and some 1,500 Polish and Ukrainian electors, and never have I heard them criticize the Liberal government which had helped them, nor speak of having been treated in an offhand manner or with indifference by the leaders of the Liberal party.

I understand that the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm meant to speak instead of the French Canadian minority, which complains about not getting its share of the advantages provided for under the terms of the British North America Act.

Besides, as he said in his statement, some reasons are well founded while others are simple prejudice. There may be some truth in what the hon. member stated, but I can tell him that the separatist movement in Quebec is not due so much to situations that arose during the Liberal administration, but rather to the fact that the citizens of Quebec recovered on June 22, 1960 a freedom they had been deprived of for 16 years.

Let us hope, however, that the grievances of that movement, if they are justified, will be settled in a spirit of harmony and justice.

However, the Prime Minister could have tempered the separatist movement in Quebec by creating a royal commission on bilingualism in Canada instead of giving a categorical no to that request.

Whether we want it or not, whether we reject such a request or not, the French language, in my opinion, enjoys a great importance today in international relations. The peoples of African countries, like those of many Asian countries, speak French, and French is used more often than English in diplomatic and international relations.

And to prove my claim, here is what the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) said yesterday, in Montreal, to the members of the Canadian club, as reported in *Le Devoir* this morning:

Canada can play a major role in helping the new French speaking nations of Africa. In those words did Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Mr. Green, call discreetly yesterday on the collaboration of French Canadians for the international prestige of our country.

Mr. Green, who was speaking to the members of the Canadian club of Montreal, spent some time explaining the position held by Canada in "the world of 1962".

If Canada is to play a part with the French-speaking nations of Africa, this obligation should not be met only by the French Canadians but also by the English-speaking Canadians. We want every citizen in this country to assume his share of the beneficent part Canada must play in Africa as well as in other foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal now with another matter. I wish to urge my Conservative colleagues from Quebec not to mislead the Quebec voters in the next election campaign on vital issues out of which they made capital in 1957-58. They will have to remind the Quebec voters that Canada does not have an ambassador to the Vatican as yet. Some criticized the Liberal party for not having done a thing about such an appointment and, with a great emotion in their voice, pictured us in the eyes of the people as almost atheistic individuals because we did not make such an appointment.