

terrible sacrifice, the sacrifice of our life, it is well that we French Canadians should do a little thinking; firstly, as to our reasons for participating in this war of extermination, and secondly, the state of affairs in this country for some years past.

With heroic Belgium sacrificing her national wealth, her children and her monuments, to defend a principle, with France, no less proud and brave, the cradle of our ancestors, with these countries repelling the most uncalled for invasion, with England as nobly and courageously flying to the succor of these two peoples so brutally attacked by the most brutal of nations, we had not a moment to hesitate.

Our duty was clear. We realized this and set to work at once. The sons of Quebec stand shoulder to shoulder on the battle fields of Belgium, on Salisbury Plain and in our Canadian camps, with the soldiers of English nationality. I even venture to say that in the first contingent sent abroad, there are more French Canadians, in proportion to our total population, than there are English Canadians born in Canada.

We are proud and happy to do our duty, but we do it with a certain bitterness of soul, even regretfully and with foreboding. Why? The reason is very plain. It is because in the Canadian confederation we are not treated with the consideration due to us. Our rightful privileges are denied us. In a word, though dwelling beneath the shelter of the British flag, we are certainly not given British fair play. I am here alluding to government employment. Not that I wish my compatriots to seek easy jobs. I would rather see them possess themselves of the soil and remain agriculturists, than to flock into our cities and towns. Nevertheless we must face the situation as it really is, and the complaints reaching me are justified, for our compatriots have not always in the past, and do not to-day receive the fair play to which they are entitled in this regard. British fair play exists, however, but it is one-sided. We are treated with every consideration so long as we permit our rights to be taken away, so long as we are pliant, so long as we are content to take second place, just so long as we are content with the humblest positions. Let the French Canadians stand back. We should be snow-shovellers, mechanics, day-labourers, elevator-men, bowed down by hard work at a small salary—that is what we are fit for. But the most lucrative offices and the greater number of positions are reserved for our English-speaking citizens.

If perchance any may doubt the accuracy of my statements on this subject, let them examine with me the report I am about to quote. This report was prepared under the preceding Administration, an Administration under which our compatriots had a right to expect full and entire justice. But then, just as now, we waited patiently, vainly, hoping from day to day for better things.

Mr. PROULX (Translation): The hon. member should consult this year's report, it is the latest one.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation): I would ask the hon. member to get this report ready and I shall read it with pleasure. In the meantime I will consult the report prepared in 1907. I will not refer to every department, but quote a few only so as to bring the most salient facts before the House.

Taking the office of the High Commissioner in London, it employs five clerks, not one of whom is a French Canadian.

The Department of Justice employs four French Canadians and thirty-eight English. The Interior Department, twenty-six French Canadians and 217 English.

The Auditor General's Office, one French Canadian and forty-six English.

The Finance Department, one French Canadian and seventy-five English.

The Department of Trade and Commerce, four French Canadians and 41 English.

Customs Department, 147 French Canadians and 1,175 English.

Department of Agriculture, 27 French Canadians and 125 English.

Department of Railways and Canals, 8 French Canadians and 87 English.

Department of Indian Affairs, 16 French Canadians and 161 English Canadians.

The proportion of employees according to nationality is as follows: French Canadians 17.80 per cent; English 82.20 per cent.

According to the latest census up to that time, the census of 1901, the proportion of French Canadians relative to the total population of the country had risen to 30.71 per 100, exclusive of Swiss and Belgians who should have been classed as French, which would have still further increased the above ratio.

The total number of civil servants permanently employed amounting to 5,634, there should be 1,792 French employees instead of the 1,039, which would give the 30.71 per 100. The number of French Canadian civil servants should therefore be increased by 753. The number of other employees should be reduced to 4,042, which would give