

a subsidiary of the Dominion Textile, and whose plant is one of the most important in Drummondville, employing as it does more than 1,600 workers. I say, Mr. Speaker, that my contact with them has enabled me to understand their problems and to sympathize with their most legitimate wishes. Drummondville, Victoriaville and other industrial centres of my constituency deserve mention for the harmony and the good spirit which exist between employers and workers. Both groups are cooperating whole-heartedly and their relations are of the best.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to extend my most sincere congratulations to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin), the former Secretary of State in this government, for his splendid work in connection with the citizenship act, both in sponsoring the bill in the Canadian parliament and in supervising the administration of the act. That legislation affords fresh hope for a prompt and sincere effort toward the achievement of a Canadian spirit. But it should not be forgotten that this agreement, this Canadian unity will only be attained if the spirit of 1867 is strictly adhered to and it is realized that the people of this country are all Canadians, having equal rights, there being neither a conquered nor a conquering element.

Canadian unity has long been a moot question. I know, Mr. Speaker, that there will always be narrow-minded people who will seek to curb any movement toward good understanding and unity among all Canadians. Those extremists form a small minority and they are more vocal than dangerous. However, I say that the Canadian nation is gradually developing.

Bilingualism is the very basis of our great national principles; it is for us an element of strength, marking as it does our racial duality, and the union of two great modern civilizations through a double classical and scientific education. Our cultural idealism is blended with a practicalness which permits us to benefit from that deep culture.

The French element does not exist only in Quebec; the French Canadians are prolific and they have preserved the adventurous spirit of their forebears. They have spread over every part of the country. They are good settlers, they know how to clear new land and they are born builders and pioneers. Courageous and industrious, they have at heart the success of their task and the preservation of their language. Western Canada as well as the maritime provinces have many French-

speaking communities. Two million French Canadians are to be found in the United States. Recent statistics show that in these last two or three years, more than 11,000 people from Quebec have taken up residence in Ontario.

A great Toronto periodical, *Saturday Night*, notes these facts and states that such a trend cannot be changed and that it is likely to become more and more noticeable. The Ontario writer states in conclusion:

Under such circumstances, why should we not improve our relations with the French Canadians and admit once for all that Canada is a bilingual country, a confederation of two racial groups having each its own language and its own culture. At the present time, bilingualism means more particularly that the French Canadians must learn English.

The writer goes on to deplore the fact that the French language is poorly taught outside of Quebec and he emphasizes that sooner or later the majority of Canadians will have to speak both languages.

That article from *Saturday Night* reflects credit on its writer and it greatly enhances the cause of Canadian unity. It recalls the very principles of the Canadian confederation and opens out new prospects for this country.

It is indeed desirable that the French language should be better taught throughout the country, so that English-speaking Canadians may better understand us. At the same time, it must be stressed that the English language should also be taught more efficiently within our province, for similar and other still more important reasons. Otherwise, we shall always have but one official language, our own. Newcomers in this country prefer English because it is easier to learn. It would be to our advantage and interest to learn better the language of the majority. If we did so, and if the rest of the people followed the advice given by the author of the article published by *Saturday Night*, Canada would become a bilingual country and we could rightly speak about a Canadian nation.

Mr. Speaker, how shall we be able to attain to the rank of a true nation or achieve Canadian unity? We shall reach such an objective by giving our country an emblem, a truly Canadian and distinctive flag, which will enable us to identify ourselves clearly, proudly and promptly. In this connection, I must compliment the government, on behalf of all my electors, for having included that commendable measure in the speech from the throne last year and having appointed a committee for that purpose. That committee in which I did not sit included outstanding