

TO ENGLISH - SPEAKING READERS : —

The following pages are almost literally translated from several articles published in Le Devoir, from the 1st to the 21st February, 1912.

May I repeat here what I wrote on a previous occasion?

"Some Anglo-Canadians, many of them perhaps, may not agree with me. But will any sensible Canadian, of any race or creed, contend that these are unreasonable views, tending to sectionalism, to race hatred, to interprovincial strifes? I do not think so."

Whatever solution is chosen to settle the Navy question, or the much larger problem of inter-Imperial relations, the more it is discussed frankly and freely, the better chance it has of being sound and enduring. It is not by stifling free and frank discussion, by branding with disloyalty all who may differ with the views of the Imperialist or any other school of policy, that the Canadian people will be better enlightened and led to adopt a proper and patriotic decision.

On the contrary, let all the aspects of this huge problem be considered, let the strongest arguments be brought forward in favour of or in opposition to any of its possible solutions, and the people of Canada will be in a far safer position to exercise a sound judgment and assert their will; and the better it will be for Canada and the Empire.

In that preliminary discussion, in the bringing forth of those arguments, no Canadian should be debarred by his race, creed, political convictions or past attitudes, from expressing his views and being listened to with the same attention as if he belonged to any other breed, church or party, or as if he had been a coward or a knave in public life.

Henri BOURASSA.

Montreal, March, 1912.