

least a hundred and fifty years late in giving expression to those fears. Belgium is a nation with two languages, and a nation which has preserved its liberty. Switzerland, a nation with three languages, has for twelve hundred years preserved its liberty in Europe. The preservation of languages is so natural and just that Great Britain, when she took over Palestine, used both Arabic and English on the coins and bills of that country. South Africa, also, uses the two languages.

Mr. LAPOINTE: What about the Irish Free State?

Mr. LAVERGNE: And the Irish Free State, and Malta,—in fact all over the British Commonwealth with the exception of Canada, we find dual language adopted. At this late hour I shall not take the time to speak at length; but may I say that if we want to build a nation, if we want Canada to be preserved as a separate and distinct entity, my opinion is—and I think it is based on sound common sense—that first of all equal justice must be given to all races, in compliance with the thought of the fathers of confederation. Their views were well expressed by Sir John A. Macdonald, who said in the House of Commons that there were no victors or vanquished, but only two races having the same rights and the same privileges so far as language and civil rights were concerned.

I have only one further statement to make; I could discuss this matter for a long time, but I shall not do so. If we want Canada to survive as a nation we must build in it something different from the United States. We should have here a dual civilization and dual traditions, for it is only on that basis that we can build up a free, prosperous and happy country.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Mr. Chairman, it is too late for me to offer any lengthy remarks, but I should like to say that I am in full accord with the remarks of the hon. members for Bellechasse and Montmagny. I wish only to place before the committee an example of the different spirit which exists even in Great Britain concerning the languages. A couple of months ago I received at my office in Quebec a letter from Great Britain which had been sent by air mail. The words "by air mail" and "par avion" in English and French respectively were on the letter. On the same day I received by air mail a letter from Alberta. The service which carried that letter was of course in Canada, but the letter had no French notation on it. In Canada some people see red when they hear the French

[Mr. LaVergne.]

language; elections are fought on the language question. I hope we will pass over that crazy period of Canadian history, and that everybody will realize it is not a shame in Canada to know, speak and understand two languages.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Chairman, I agree fully with the remarks of the three speakers who have preceded me.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I concur fully in the remarks of the previous speakers. I believe both languages should be spoken in the province of Quebec and throughout the whole of Canada. The words of the mottoes of British sovereigns, namely, "honi soit qui mal y pense" and "Dieu et mon droit" do not prevent the people of the British Empire from being loyal to the British crown. A few days ago I had occasion to look into the files of a very dear old friend who has now passed away. He was a man against whom I had occasion to contest a constituency, and in that election the people decided he was a better man than I. I refer to the late Hon. Mr. Robb. Many petitions and circulars on this subject were sent to him, as a member of the Liberal government, but they were not acted upon. However, the fact that the late government did not grant the request now repeated by the hon. member for Bellechasse is no reason why the present government should not do so. Two wrongs do not make a right. Therefore, leaving all petty political consideration aside, I am free to concur in the remarks of the hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Mr. Chairman, I also concur in the remarks made by the ex-Minister of Justice, the hon. member for Montmagny and the hon. member for St. Ann. I say to the committee that if such a resolution had not been brought down this year by the hon. member for Bellechasse I myself would have made a similar motion. Representing a county of the province of Quebec and as a citizen of that province I ask the government seriously to consider the suggestion.

Mr. GAGNON: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to add a word in support of the contention of the hon. member for Bellechasse. It is true that the first hon. member who moved that bank notes and currency be printed in the French language was the hon. member for Montmagny, in the year 1907. At that time he and the hon. member for Labelle were the only members who were in favour of a resolution to that effect. To-night however we hear a great many members on both sides of the house express similar views.