

recognize the dual civilization which enriches the Canadian life and makes it different from that of our neighbours to the south, and for that reason they ask you not to object to the printing of French inscriptions on our coins and bank notes.

When a bilingual stamp is affixed to a letter going abroad, to South Africa, India, China or Australia, this small square piece of paper bearing only two words, one in French and one in English, tells the whole world that here in Canada, this wonderful country of ours, French and English are living together side by side, imbued with the traditions and aspirations of their respective civilizations. This small square paper bears witness to the whole world that here French and English people understand one another, that they are real partners and brothers united in the achievement of the work begun by the fathers of confederation, and when this same small square piece of paper is affixed to a letter going from one province to another it is in one sense a message of peace and goodwill and harmony between the races of this dominion. May I ask this house to perform a further act of courtesy and generosity and justice in permitting that on all our mediums of exchange, gold, silver or bank notes, inscriptions be printed in French and English?

I will be as brief as possible, Mr. Speaker. In this time of depression, the legislators of the whole world, notwithstanding unalterable devotion to the public duty, cannot find a way to give in one way the necessary bread to all the needy; but, sir, how fruitful will be their efforts if at least they succeed in contenting their souls. The happiness of a country is not achieved only by the wealth of its population, but also by the moral satisfaction that the aspirations of all races living in this great dominion have been fully satisfied. In this spirit, Mr. Speaker, and extending to my English speaking colleagues of all parties a friendly hand, I ask that in the spirit of brotherhood they vote for the motion.

Mr. F. W. TURNBULL (Regina): So far as I am concerned personally, I have every respect for the desire of the French speaking people of Canada to use their own language. It is a language which in many ways is admirable, and I would be one of the last of those in this country to suggest of any member or person in this house that he should not be permitted to use the mother tongue of his original nationality. There are, however, differences of opinion as to whether or not it is wise to press a motion of this kind at the present time. In the first place, it is a motion calculated, whether intentionally or

not, to arouse in this country certain sentiments which under present conditions should not be aroused. If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when we should abandon any questions which are liable to create racial friction among the people of the dominion, that time is now, when we should be united for the economic salvation of the country.

Mr. LAVERGNE: What sentiments?

Mr. TURNBULL: I might direct the attention of my hon. friends who have supported the motion to the fact that in 1841 in the legislatures of this country the French language had no standing. In 1844 however the right to use the French language was admitted in the parliament of the united colonies of upper and lower Canada. As a matter of contract among the then existing provinces in Canada, the rights and privileges of the French language in Canada were crystallized into a contract among the provinces, which was afterwards given statutory recognition by the British North America Act. May I remind my hon. friend that this country of Canada is founded on the British North America Act and that as well as conferring privileges, if I may call them so, on the people of the French speaking race, it also confers privileges on the English speaking race. The bed-rock of the rights of minorities, whether racial or religious, is in the British North America Act and its terms, and may I remind minorities in this country that when they start to sap the foundations of that act, which is the charter of their rights and liberties, they are treading on very dangerous ground because, if the British North America Act may be changed at any time to suit certain classes of people, it may be changed at other times to suit other classes. An extension of any rights that are given to minorities under that act, except by agreement among the provinces themselves who were parties to it, leaves it open to a majority at any time to make changes in that act or to extend the rights that are given under it. In making those statements I am not taking any new ground; I am simply adopting ground that was taken by gentlemen who occupied seats in this house long years before I did.

Mr. POULIOT: Two minutes left.

Mr. TURNBULL: This is not a new question in the parliament of Canada. Various matters of this kind have been before our people at many stages of our history. Back in 1890, if hon. gentlemen will consult Han-