

has, as ours has, those qualities which are required of a population to become a nation, namely, vitality, productiveness and expansiveness.

I cannot resume my seat without assuring this House that while I hold the views I have just now expressed, I am actuated by no other motives than those of loyalty towards my nationality, my own countrymen and the people of the Dominion at large. My conviction is that, if peace and harmony are to be restored in our community the rights of each nationality should be acknowledged and maintained. Our past as well as our present history shows that it is so. Bear in mind the use of the French language is not merely a privilege. It is a right, as I have already shown. If so, then it is our property, the property of the minority in the Dominion. The moment, then, that the majority refuses to acknowledge this right, it becomes the duty of the minority so menaced, in the enjoyment of what is hers, to vindicate the same. Dissatisfaction is shown, troubles begin, national feelings become excited, war, internal war, is at hand, and the whole country has to suffer for it. Look at the agitation in Manitoba. Who can say what will be the end of it? Had I not been actuated by such worthy motives as those I have just now described, I certainly would have felt inclined to remain silent and live in peace with friend and foe. Am I not, at this very moment, expressing my full disagreement with my own compatriots in the other House, whose course on this very same question I strongly disapprove and condemn? Such a position as the one I refer to as being mine, is certainly not an enviable one, if friendly relations are considered. Much less so if you take into account the strong efforts which have been made for some six or seven days past to persuade my countrymen in this House to vote down my motion and prevent me, if possible, from having a seconder, so that my motion might not be put before the Senate. One could not imagine what were the arguments used to convince members of their duty to do so, in this instance. Let me give you some of those valuable reasons. "The Government had to be supported. Our friends from Quebec had voted with the Government. It would injure them if Senators from Quebec should vote the other way. The Opposition in the Commons had

rallied to the views of the Government. It would not do to contradict in the Senate the course followed by our friends in the other House. Never mind the French language—let us save our friends." Such are politics in our days. Such are the national sentiments of some of our people. How many have those arguments convinced? I could not say how many will support my views. I did not enquire, neither do I know whether my motion will be seconded. I know not how far the efforts made have succeeded. One thing I know, and it is this: even if the great cause I here advocate is deserted in this House as it has been deserted in the other, even should I be left alone to vindicate it, I should not hesitate to do what I consider a duty, and a most solemn duty, failure to fulfil which on my part I should consider an act of treason to my compatriots, nay to the whole people of the Dominion.

"Justice brings about peace."
 "*Justitia et pax osculate sunt.*"

I ask for nothing new, nothing extraordinary, nothing but what is perfectly just and equitable. Under the present laws, both English and French are official in the North-West Territories. I ask that the new law acknowledge them also. Under the present laws the power to abolish those official languages is reserved to the federal authorities in the same way as under the British North America Act this same power is reserved to the Imperial Parliament. I ask that under the new law we are now discussing this same power be also reserved to the federal authorities, as it is now, and as it has been in the past.

Let me relate an incident that I only learned on Saturday to show you what fanaticism can do. A meeting of milkmen took place in Montreal a fortnight ago with a view to forming an association for mutual protection. The attendance was small. Those present were all English with the exception of two or three French Canadians. They adopted some regulations for the new association—after which they adjourned the meeting until a week ago last Saturday, at which time another meeting was held. The secretary was familiar with both the French and English languages, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read in English. The second meeting was a mixed one, English and French. No objection was raised to the minutes being read in Eng-