

big, too great, too noble a question to be used as a pretext for the use of vituperative or offensive language against one's opponents. I am pleased indeed that no voice has been raised in this house in opposition to the resolution of my hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger). May I add that in my humble opinion no voice could be successfully raised against the resolution.

As my hon. friend the Solicitor General has said, both languages are official in Canada. Section 133 of the British North America Act certainly stipulates that certain documents must be printed in both languages, but that does not mean that the two languages are not official for other documents. For all these other documents either language is official, and all the leaders of Canada since confederation have always recognized that. Confederation, indeed, would have been impossible had this principle not been recognized, as was stated so many times by Sir John A. Macdonald, and by those who followed him as leaders of the government of this country.

I might quote the words of Sir Robert Borden and of Sir Wilfrid Laurier on bilingualism, but here is what I want to say. It is ten o'clock, and this is the last day on which this resolution can be discussed this session. If I indulge in a speech and am followed by other members who speak at any great length we would defeat the very purpose of the resolution. I and those who support this resolution desire that it be carried, and I shall therefore confine my remarks to asking the house now to recognize in a practical way that the two languages are official in Canada, and, by carrying and putting this resolution into effect, do an act of justice which, though it may have been delayed, will be acclaimed by the whole people of this country.

Mr. C. N. DORION (Quebec-Montmorency) (Translation): I very closely followed and read the speech delivered in the house by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger), in support of his resolution.

To conform with the traditions of his party, it was from the opposition benches that he moved his resolution. Did not one of its most prominent leaders—for numerous are the leaders on the opposite side—give him a striking example, in the past? Who has forgotten the famous Lapointe motion in connection with the teaching of French in Ontario? It was in 1917. A liberal Prime Minister, of that period, was blotting out the last traces of French teaching in Manitoba. However, the Lapointe motion was not directed against that government, but rather against the Conservative government of Ontario.

A few years later a Dominion election placed the hon. member for Quebec East in power. But, how cruelly forgetful is the memory of the Liberal party patriots; although conditions complained of in 1917 were still existing, the Lapointe motion had been entirely set aside or abandoned on the hustings of Quebec. Nothing further was heard in the house about it, yet a conservative Prime Minister in Ontario was removing from the statutes of his province the famous regulation which had caused so much apprehension and alarm among Canadians of French extraction in Ontario.

I do not wish to be too severe towards certain hon. friends opposite and deny them the title given to them or rather which they appropriated to themselves in certain quarters, that of champions of the rights of Canadians of French extraction. As our people say: if they espouse the French cause when they are in the opposition, it is to a certain extent a matter of chance. They also say, in Quebec, that this resolution is now moved by the hon. member for Bellechasse, as a matter of chance, a mere coincidence.

Mr. BOULANGER (Translation): What difference does it make?

Mr. LAFLECHE (Translation): Neither did it make any on previous occasions.

Some hon. MEMBERS (Translation): Call in the members!

Mr. DORION (Translation): They harbour no thoughts of political gain or electioneering. All, in Quebec, are satisfied as to this. Moreover, the Liberals have as a party leader in Quebec a champion of French thought and ideals, Mr. Taschereau who, on the one hand, begged, not long ago, for decorations from the French government, while on the other hand, he appealed to the most bigoted prejudices in order to prevent our sons from going overseas to fight on French soil. I repeat it, our friends opposite harbour no thoughts of political gain. One recalls, moreover, with what vehemence they protested against Mr. Taschereau who, at the Ottawa Economic Conference, undertook, without consulting any one, to send a delegate, the member for Quebec South to represent the French Canadian province; and what a cry of indignation they raised throughout Quebec when they heard that Mr. Taschereau had entirely forgotten the French language in drawing up the memorandum placed at the disposal of the delegates by his government.

I trust that the glowing patriotism of our friends will not cool down and that they will soon obtain from the Quebec government the printing in both languages, of trade certificates issued by the provincial treasury.