

rounding any proposal as to a public measure. These are questions of the highest possible importance in their bearing upon the future of this nation, not only in this decade and the next decade, but in all succeeding decades as long as this nation shall have life. There are upon this continent to-day, seventy millions of English-speaking people. There will be upon this continent a hundred years from to-day, in all human probability, three hundred and seventy-five millions of English-speaking people. How are all these people to be educated? In what way are the foundation of the future to be laid? What is to be the character of the influence to be exerted by these English-speaking races upon the world? What kind of a nation are we to build here, with our vast natural resources and capability of supporting a hundred million people? Shall we stop to consider these questions? Shall we realize that upon us devolves the responsibility of building for the future? And shall we take into consideration this measure in the spirit in which we ought to consider it? Shall we consider that God has not laid upon us an unreasonable demand, and never did?

He never made upon any human being an unreasonable demand. He never required of man anything that was not in man's interest. He never required of man anything that man would suffer by performing, and he requires of us, as a Legislature, attention to this matter in the light of our responsibility to him, in the light of our responsibility to the people of this country. He requires our attention to this with a due sense of the importance of this question and the responsibility that rests upon us. The wisdom of the infinite is a safe guide, and we can not despise the means which He has appointed to secure national wealth and prosperity, without invoking upon our own heads the disasters that will be sure to follow the disregard of His commands. For that reason I press this Bill, believing it is in the highest interest of Canada, believing I am justified in urging its passage in the warmest manner. I present it to the kindly and judicious consideration of every member of this House—the leader of this House, and every one of his followers and the gentlemen who sit in Opposition—and I ask that it may receive that consideration which the importance of the questions demands.