

there clearings, but the woodland appears to be in excess of the clearings. When the traveller arrives at Montreal he notes this fact, that the French element is very much less as compared with Quebec. It is only 54 per cent as compared with the 74 per cent of Quebec. At public meetings the chances are equal as to whether a speaker will use the English or French language. But in Quebec, so far as I know, the odds are very much in favour of French only being heard. I need not ask your attention to the University, nor to the various educational bodies, or the magnificent public buildings, because the place, I have no doubt, is almost as familiar to many of you in this room as the city of Liverpool. Supposing then we hurry forward from Montreal to Ottawa, the centre of the Dominion. On the journey the traveller passes through the same low-lying country of forest, lake, and stream, varied by tracts of cultivation as before. The uncultivated parts occupy a far greater part of the country than the cultivated. Ottawa is a city built upon a hill, and the hill is crowned with one of the most admirable and beautiful groups of public buildings that it has ever been my pleasure to look upon. Ottawa is the centre of the British Dominion, because of the rivalry that existed between the French population in the east and the English population—using the term English in the widest sense—in the west. They have not chosen Toronto, Quebec, or Montreal, but have selected what was a small lumbering town and made it their capital. An outward and visible sign of the French element in the population, as contrasted with the English, is the fact that the Parliamentary debates in the Canadian "Hansard" are printed in French and English. For purposes of debate it is absolutely necessary for members to know both the English and French languages. Thus in the Canadian Parliament a man is supposed to possess a knowledge which certainly is not demanded of our Imperial representatives in this country. I think it exceedingly improbable that some of our members would be able to carry on the debates with the same persistence in two languages as they now do in one.

I must pause for a moment to say a word about the principal trade of Ottawa. I have used the term "lumbering," by which I mean the cutting down of trees, their reduction to logs, and their introduction into the sawmill. Ottawa is the great centre of that trade, and I for one cannot help being struck by the waste of timber. I may say here, that so far as I have been through the forests not merely of Canada, but of the Eastern States, I have never seen any big forest trees alive. The forests are being rapidly destroyed, not merely by being cut down, but by the fires which are being continually caused through the carelessness of the people who are "lumbering." I cannot help thinking that that is a very important fact, and one which is quite worthy of the notice of the Legislature of the British