

partisans in this case. The issue was forced upon us more or less, and we have to face it.

One other point I wish to bring forward is that other parts of the Empire have already done what we are advocating to-day without endangering the security of the British Crown. Not only in Canada but in other self-governing Dominions there are bilingual excise stamps, and, notwithstanding, the King has been just as healthy as he ever was. Then we already have also postage stamps telling the people of this country and of other nations the true complexion, from a racial standpoint, of the population of Canada.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Only to those who have microscopes.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: In honour of the celebrations which will commemorate the discovery of this country by Jacques Cartier, the Postmaster General is issuing a new stamp which—to the scandal of my honourable friend from Toronto—will be in French and English. I am very sorry for him, but in my capacity as a physician I freely offer the stimulant which in due course may be necessary to revive him.

Studying other interesting precedents, I find that in 1827 there was bilingual money in this country. It is inscribed, "Bank token—one penny." In 1855 there was issued by Molson's Bank, from Toronto too—what a scandal!—money bearing an inscription in French. In spite of the French words, it was usually honoured!

Do we not also find that in South Africa and in the Irish Free State they have bilingual money? True, those two countries have each—what we have not as yet—a distinctive national flag. But let us hope this will come some day.

My right honourable friend said that a bilingual bank note would look somewhat awkward. That is a very light argument, especially from such a source, and not up to the usual standard of my right honourable friend's arguments. I hold in my hand the only \$5 bill I have left. It is issued by the Banque Canadienne Nationale. It is in French and has a very artistic appearance. One may observe that there is plenty of room for the duplicate heading in English.

I was reliably informed a day or two ago, and I give the information to the House for what it is worth—I admit it is hearsay evidence, something which certainly would not be admitted in a court of law—that the plates and engraving for bilingual money had already been prepared before the question came up in the other House. As I say, I give the information for what it is worth.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE.

If such is the fact, I should like to know who or what was responsible for changing the plans.

As I have already said, this is not a constitutional issue. I agree that from the standpoint of French-speaking Canadians the issuing of two sets of notes is a big gain.

Hon. Mr. HOCKEN: A big gain?

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I admit that, although it deprives the two French banks, La Banque Provinciale du Canada and La Banque Canadienne Nationale, of the privilege which they have hitherto enjoyed of issuing notes in French. They will be deprived of the right to issue any notes at all.

Hon. Mr. DONNELLY: When?

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Not for ten years.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: By that time probably the feeling to which I have referred will be strong enough to hasten a definite solution of the problem.

Now, honourable senators, I wish to stress one more point, which is suggested to me by the surroundings in which I live. I happen to live in a district which geographically is American. The territory to the north as well as to the south of the county of Essex is American; so geographically, and in many other ways as well, we are more or less Americanized. That is probably the reason why I feel that we should not lose this new opportunity to affirm that we are citizens of a different and distinctive nation. I say we should not allow this occasion to pass without making an effort to stimulate national pride by stamping on our bank notes something that is characteristically Canadian.

I appeal to my honourable colleagues in this House not on the grounds of constitutionality, but for the sake of peace and justice—

Hon. Mr. HOCKEN: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I think I understand the word "peace," but it would seem that the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hocken) has his own personal, original and exclusive way of interpreting the meaning of English words. For the sake of peace, justice, harmony, convenience, common sense, broad-mindedness, courtesy and economy, I advocate the issuing of bilingual bank notes, and I intend to vote in favour of the amendment recommended by the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Coming back to the honourable senator from Grandville, I may say, before taking my seat, that I do not think it is was quite fair of