

fight against odds. But will you allow me to lay before you the principle set forth by an English writer: "A survey of the different parts of the British Empire in the present great crisis shows that the true unity and cooperation exists in every case in inverse ratio as the particular unifying methods of our coercionist friends have been employed." It is certain that if the French Canadians had been treated differently in respect to their language, if they had had the "fair play" which is the ordinary "trademark" of British Institutions, if instead of making absurd regulations to hinder them from learning their own language in the schools, they had been told: "You wish to learn English, well and good: We will also give you fair opportunity of learning French," the result of recruiting would have been very much greater. Above all, we would not see in our land those bitter discussions which really affect the peace of society.

In spite of all this, we remain confident. For, in the words of the "Monocle Man," in the Canadian Courier:

"There has never been a single movement against the French Canadians in this country that has not ended in a complete ethnological failure and a crushing defeat for the imprudent men who have tried it. The battlefield of prejudice and passion has often been the burying-ground of numerous ambitions full of promise."

We, my friends, shall strive for nobler things — when through mutual respect and appreciation, as a united body, we bend all our forces towards the realization of the ideals of those truly great statesmen who inaugurated the Confederation, then, and not till then can we be assured of the greatness and the prosperity of Canada: A greatness and a prosperity — measured by a higher standard than that of widely extended and profitable commerce, — by the uprightness and loyalty of its people, the only solid and stable foundation for a great nation.