

liberately, not in any spirit of anger, not with any idea of threat, that you can have peace now, you can have amity and unity and concord in Canada, if those who are responsible for the administration of public affairs will see to it that these language difficulties are settled. Unless they are settled—there is no use in blinking the fact—you will continue to have disunion and discord permanently and ever increasing. The French Canadians are anxious for peace; they are anxious for harmony; they are just as good and as loyal and as law-abiding and as patriotic Canadians as anyone in this country; they love and believe in Canada as much as, if not more than, anybody else in Canada; they are prepared for peace; they are ready to meet and treat fairly with the gentlemen in this province and in other provinces who have for years persecuted and now propose to further persecute them and attempt to proscribe their language. But, like the Allies, they do not want a peace with the map as it exists; they want a peace the conditions of which will provide equal and fair treatment for them. They do not want peace to-day with their language proscribed in this province and about to be proscribed in the western provinces; and I cannot refrain from expressing my abhorrence of the duplicity and hypocrisy shown in this province, for instance, where certain recent legislation with regard to the use of French in the primary schools of Ontario—has been said to have been framed for the purpose of helping the French language in this province. Not only is the language proscribed, but we are told by those responsible for this persecution that it is for our own good and for the purpose of promoting and helping the French language. If my honourable friends who have spoken on the speech from the Throne—and every one of them has said the same thing—are sincere in their desire to see the French language spoken in this House and in this country, I say it is their duty to do something to solve this difficulty. If this Government, which calls itself a Union Government, is sincere, and if it sees its task as it should see it, it will endeavour to create union not only among its members, but also among the people of this country.

My honourable friend from Mille Îles (Hon. Mr. David) reminds me of the regulations passed recently by the province of Ontario with regard to land settlement in the province. To-day if any French Canadian wishes to settle in Northern Ontario

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT.

or in any other part where the forest must be cleared—and I may say in parenthesis that I do not think there is anybody in the world who can or will do it but the French Canadian—what must he do? He must renounce his nationality; he must renounce his language. He must undertake to see that his children shall not be taught in their mother tongue the glorious traditions left by the French in this country. He must renounce forever the right to have his children speak their mother tongue. And under what penalty? Under pain of losing everything that he may have invested in lands in this province—under pain of seeing the results of all his work forfeited. Yet we are told that the French Canadians have no grievance. We are told that there is no reason for his antagonism, this irritation, in the province of Quebec. We have during the recent elections been branded as disloyal, as pro-German, as traitors to Canada, to Great Britain, and France. Why? Because in the province of Quebec there was expressed, generally if you will, frankly and openly, opposition to the scheme of conscription. That feeling was not confined to Quebec. It existed also in Ontario; it existed in the West; it existed all over Canada. The result of the elections has proved it amply. Anybody who cares to analyse the returns from the polling booths will see that there was a very strong feeling against conscription in this province and elsewhere. Yet the people of this province were not called pro-German; they were not called traitors, slackers, and so on. They were not called unnatural and degenerate sons of old France, et cetera. I cannot affirm it too often; there was at the beginning of this war a practical unanimity in this country with regard to Canada's participation. I do not know of any one, not even the gentleman whose name, I am sure, occurs at the moment to many honourable gentlemen who are listening to me, who was opposed to Canada's participation in the war. Is it because some people in one province or another, especially in the province of Quebec, expressed their desire to have the war carried on in a certain way, which was not the way of other people in other provinces, that they are to be branded as they were branded? Was it necessary, in order to ensure the success of this Union Government and its legislation, that this racial difficulty to which I have alluded should have been intensified in the way it was during the elections? Was it necessary that the whole English press of Ontario and the West, with very rare exceptions, should, in common accord, make the most shameless