

The English Protestant minority of Quebec stands to-day as the only minority in any province of Canada, whose rights and privileges have never been curtailed, challenged or disputed. Not only does that minority enjoy all and every one of the privileges guaranteed by the law; but it receives at the free hand of the Catholic majority a far ampler measure of privileges of every sort than it is entitled to, either in law, in usage or in equity. And this, mind you, in spite of the fact that the rights of every Catholic or French minority in the English provinces of Canada have, to a greater or lesser degree, been encroached upon, disputed or measured in the most meagre manner.

Indeed if any lesson can be drawn from the history of Canada for the future of Ireland, it is that the privileges of the people of Ulster will be safe in the hands of the Catholic majority of Ireland, — as safe at least as the Catholic minority of Ulster would be under the rule of the Protestant majority of that province if it were excluded from the jurisdiction of an Irish parliament.

This brings me to the latter and shorter part of my address.

CANADA

Adjustment of Racial Differences

I have already covered much of the ground of comparison between the two countries. I merely desire to demonstrate, by a short reference to the past history of Canada, the possibility of reconciling races and peoples, inimical to each other and deeply divided by long standing prejudices.

Canada was practically the last piece of land in the world whose fate was settled at the end of the bloody conflict pursued for centuries between France and England for the supremacy in Europe and eventually throughout the world.

But in one respect, the outcome of the fight in Canada differed radically from the result of that same struggle in every other land conquered by either of these two great nations.

In Europe, England's power was finally expelled from the continent. All her possessions, either those forming part of the feudal inheritance of the Dukes of Normandy or those conquered in the protracted struggle of the Hundred Years War, were finally retaken by the French King.

In Asia or America, England, having become mistress of the seas, wrested from France practically the whole of her immense colonial Empire.

In either case, the conquest was complete, — moral and ethical, as well as material and political. It was not only a change of flag and authority, military or civil: the laws, the customs, the language, the religion of the vanquished disappeared.

Normandy and Guienne, Picardy and Poitou, once the secular