

I shall not again refer to race and religion, but there is the question of language, more serious than either as a factor of discord. Races die out and become absorbed, creating a new composite; religion changes and adapts itself to conditions according to time, place and circumstances; but language is the most persistent of all human possessions. The greater the effort to suppress it, the greater is the determination to retain it. The mother tongue, like mother herself, lingers longer and fondest in our memories. We of the English-speaking tongue may lament the fact of a dual official language in Canada following after the conquest of Quebec; we may regret and regard as mistaken and mischievous that Quebec obtained special rights and privileges—not in any way guaranteed by treaty—concessions, unsolicited and unexpected at the outset in the cause of good will, and for the purpose of making a people oppressed and poor and tax-ridden under French rule, happy and contented under British rule. We may further grieve over the fact and resent it that your French-Canadian brethren have been taught to accept their special treatment as being neither unusual or unprecedented under similar conditions of conquest, and that they are oppressed and hated by what they chose to regard as their "English rulers." The fact of religious and civil institutions, "*sui generis*" as they are, remains, and a privilege once granted and regarded as a right cannot be easily taken away without creating deep resentment and sowing seeds of revolt. Therefore, Quebec within its own provincial boundaries must work out its own future, conformable with the general aims of Confederation. It must learn, of course, that Quebec, and Quebec alone, can demand what a generous victory conceded after war; a war not against French Canada but against France to which nation it no longer owes allegiance or gives affection.

In the matter of language I think the rest of Canada attaches too much importance to the French-Canadian attitude. When Canada came under British rule, the population was altogether French, and, without prescience of future devel-