

matter of the relationship of a man towards his family and his neighbors and the community in which he lives. Any one of the constituencies which elect representatives to Parliament is probably a better judge of these qualifications than Parliament itself. The duty of fixing the qualifications is assigned to Parliament in a general way. But Parliament is only a referee and should do its duty modestly, not in an arrogant fashion.

The man of foreign or alien birth or descent is in a peculiar position. He came to us with traditions that are European rather than Canadian. He came upon our invitation. We ought not to have invited him unless we expected to make him a good citizen of Canada, for we do not want men and women in Canada who, as Mr. Pardee says, are in no man's land.

There is a great deal of talk of Canadianizing the foreigner and make him a good citizen. All right if we are sincere, and if we carry our ideas to their logical conclusion. If we desire to educate the foreigner or the alien, we must assume toward him an attitude of sympathy and confidence, not of suspicion. We should invite him to our councils. We should tell him that the institutions of our country, our legislative bodies and courts are his institutions too, that they are intended to protect him and promote his interests and that we want him to take his part in framing and maintaining them.

It is an extremely foolish notion that by depriving a man of alien birth or descent, of the vote, we can keep him out of mischief. If there were a really vicious malignant enemy of Canada in our midst, he would not care whether he had a vote or not. He would take no pride in citizenship. He would not desire to have a part in working the institutions of the country. He would prefer to see those institutions destroyed. The man or woman who is really hurt by disfranchisement is the man or woman who is friendly to Canada, who wants to be a citizen, who desires to have a part in working the institutions of Canada. Deprive such a man or woman of the franchise and you may convert a friend into an enemy, or at least quench the flame of friendship and patriotism and create a class of man and woman who will be indifferent to Canadianism. Let us take the opposite course. Let us kindle the flames of Canadianism and patriotism by a policy of friendship and confidence toward men of every race and every creed.