

Act was prepared with a view to crushing down and annihilating the French population, but it has been a mistake. It will never be a success. The means employed to achieve this end will produce no such effects. The population of both Upper and Lower Canada have about the same interests, so they will have to sympathize with each other one day or another. Without the active co-operation of the French. The Government will not be able to administer the affairs of the country in the only way which would restore that peace and that confidence which are essential to the success of all administrations. By the Union Act, we have been placed in exceptional situation and in a minority. It may be that we will succumb, but if we do succumb it will not be before we have commanded the respect of our enemies.

"There is not a single French name amongst those of the members of the Cabinet. Is not this fact alone an injustice and a premeditated insult? Should the Government answer that we were offered office but that we declined the invitation, my answer would be, it is true we refused to enter the Cabinet unless sufficient guarantees were given to us. But this is no excuse. Did not the Government find some French, men willing to accept at their hands seats in the Legislative Council? Did they not even find some who consented to become parties to a martial court? Could they not have found some also who would have been willing to join them in the administration?"

Mr. Lafontaine went on in the same strain and concluded by stating that:

"while he could have no confidence in the Government taken as a whole therewere Ministers who commanded, his respect and who had a right to his confidence."

Now, was not this a manly and patriotic speech, especially if you consider the position that Mr. Lafontaine occupied, and which I have described as well as I could in the few words I have spoken on this subject? What was the consequence? Did this vigorous speech stir up bad feelings on the Government side of the House? Was an effort made to oppress more and more the French Canadians? No; on the contrary, not long after, some thirty months after, an address to the Queen praying that the use of the French language be restored, was unanimously voted by the Assembly, and such men as Mr. Moffatt and Dr. Dunlop stood up and withdrew all harsh words they had uttered against the French language, adding that it would be a pleasure to them if England acceded to their request. England did accede to it, and since that day French has been, as it had a right to be by the Treaty of 1763, one of the two official languages of Canada.

Our rights and privileges were thus acknowledged and restored, and they have stood the test of time, ill-will and bigotry through all these years. When such a precious heritage has been preserved by our forefathers under most trying circumstances, is it not a matter of grief to every

patriotic man amongst us to witness the course which some of our countrymen have followed in the other House? Is not the course followed by them an invitation to our fellow-countrymen to abandon those ideas, to submit to their fate, to cease learning French and become English? Were I of English, Scotch or Irish parentage, I would certainly take pride in my origin. Those races have a renown throughout the civilized world. But such is not my origin, my forefathers came from France. To that nationality I cling with all my heart, believing that it is as honorable as that of my friends of any other origin. True to our good, gracious Queen whose subject I have some pride in claiming to be, I love *la belle France*, the motherland whose son I am happy to say I am. The French people have their defects, but they have also grand virtues. No doubt it is the same with every other nationality, since all evils and defects spring from the disobedience of Adam and Eve, of whom we are the descendants and the unwilling heirs.

Let the French population of this country be true to their nationality; let them have faith in it as our forefathers had. Let them be ready to stand by their rights or fall with them. If they do so, I say there is no danger. They will always have in their struggles, the help of a certain class of the English speaking majority who would be ashamed to use that strength which they possess by their numbers, to oppress a minority and deprive it of its legitimate rights. Let my compatriots never forget the history of the past in Canada, a history of which I have had occasion to say a few words. Let them look at what is going on in the different States of the great Republic south of Canada. Let them follow our compatriots who have gone to that great and prosperous country. What progress they have made! Do we not find them in every walk of life in that country? Some in the judiciary, others in their legislatures, others in their municipal corporations, and so on. Is a nationality which has held its ground in its own country for over a century under the most difficult circumstances that it is possible to imagine, and which could send at the same time her sons to another land to achieve such success—is such a nationality one whose future existence can in any way be a matter of doubt? Certainly not, when it