

MORE
RECIPROCITY
NEEDED

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We have always believed that a better feeling would be brought about between the French Province of Quebec and the English provinces of the Dominion, but particularly Ontario, by our business and professional men—not politicians.

This conviction is strengthened by the good work that has emanated from the visit of the Ontario Entente Cordiale delegation to our province, and will be further increased by the visit of the Province of Quebec delegates to Ontario in January next.

The commingling of representatives of both provinces, without any political influence, is the only sure

method of killing a pernicious movement on the part of politicians to raise enmity between the two races for party ends.

There is no doubt that Bourassaism and Nationalism went too far in the Province of Quebec. It made the farmer think that he was being made a slave of British domination; it engendered a dangerous excitement among students and the youth of the cities, all of which ultimately threw odium upon the French-Canadian race of this province, for the reason that they have not the press, nor the channels to refute or stem the gross misrepresentations which were placed upon acts and speech. The leaders of this movement were no doubt out for personal popularity and aggrandizement. The sacrifice of the French-Canadian race to them meant nothing. Bourassaism and Nationalism meant only the payment of homage and tithe to Bourassa. Fortunately, it did not take the French-Canadians long to see through the

game, but considerable harm was already done, and it is now taking time to repair the injury.

This will only be brought about by a strong effort on the part of the French-Canadians to break down the false impression which has gone abroad, even into the United States, where it has been circulated by the pro-Germans, that the French-Canadian race of Canada was on the verge of rebelling against taking part in this war.

We know that for years previous to the war Canada permitted German missionaries to sow the seeds of discontent among the French-Canadians. These agents of the Kaiser would not dare to go into any of the other provinces of the Dominion to carry on their nefarious work, but they were allowed to do it in this province. They were permitted, under the very shadow of the British flag, to tell the French-Canadians, who could not call either Great Britain or France their native land, that they would be better

off under the German flag than that of Britain. In the village hotel or store the German traveller, educated and speaking fluent French, told wonderful tales of how prosperous the Province of Quebec would be under Teutonic rule, and what the Germans would do for the French-Canadians if they possessed this country. These commercial travellers were probably German professors.

These were the men who sowed the seeds for years in the Province of Quebec, and particularly among the French-Canadians, and taught them to hate England and the English. Then came Bourassaism and Nationalism, which did much the same thing. Then followed the war, and the English-Canadians now ask why the French-Canadians have not responded to the call of duty as they have, which inference the French-Canadians do not admit, as they possibly object to being condemned, ex-parte, or on hearsay evidence.

There are many causes why the French-Canadians have not responded to the call in equally as large numbers as the English-Canadians, and we have no hesitation in saying that the French-Canadians should not be ashamed to make these causes public.

We could enumerate many of them, which are probably well known to our own people, but they should be put forward throughout the entire provinces of the Dominion, not in a retaliatory way, but in a manner that will appeal to the fair mind of the English speaking Canadians.

We believe that this will be done through the coalition of the members of the Entente Cordiale of the two provinces, but we would like to suggest that other organizations follow in the wake of the present Entente Cordiale Committee.

Why not organize exchange visits of the French-Canadian university students with those of Ontario? We are sure that a most pleasant visit

could be made in either Toronto or Quebec.

But, above all, Canadians must bear in mind that the agitators of this province and the agitators of Ontario, the men who are trying to make reputations and gain popularity, finding fault and piffing over little things, omitting the greater issues, do not represent the views of the large majority of the French or English-Canadians.

Let the politician who would separate the two races for the profit of his party be branded with pro-German views, and let not the true Canadian patriot forget that at this stage of the war crisis we must stand united for a common cause, not only against militarism and barbarism, but those who retard recruiting by piffing over statistics of how many British and foreign or English and French-Canadians have gone to the front. Let us only think that the casualty lists include all Canadians, no matter where they come from, and greater will be the

honor and victory to the largest number of men at the front, whether from England, France, Russia, Quebec or Ontario.

Nor let us forget the cardinal colors in painting the picture of the quiet, law-abiding and peaceful French-Canadian farmers, descendants of the first colonizers of Canada, the pioneers of our lumber industry, the hewers of our virgin forests, the path-finders of civilization and religion in Canada, and the first navigators of our great lakes and rivers, all of which has meant so much to the British Empire. Shall we forget all these great things that have helped to build and make Canada what it is, because a few politicians, both in this province and in the Dominion, have done their best to produce enmity between the two races, or shall these two races join together with a feeling of just satisfaction that such politicians have met with their true deserts in the complete failure of their selfish motives?

Every nerve and fibre of every Canadian no matter of what nationality, will be required when this war is over to hold the trade which we now have, and that which we will want to possess, if Canada is to keep prosperity within her border and take her proper place in the British Empire.

