

as well as they do in Canada. In the second place he asks, if this privilege is intended for French teachers only, but, Sir, the resolution does not apply any more to French teachers than to any other teachers. I understand, but simply to those teachers who will qualify themselves to teach the French language. And what is their title or rank? Is it a title in his or her school? Now, I ask is there anything unfair when it is intended to apply to all alike? or even if the Government allowance was given to teachers teaching the French language only to the French speaking people of this Island, would their teachers be as well qualified in the French language as the English speaking teachers are in the English language, that there would be anything unfair in it? But when all that is asked for in the resolution is a small allowance for an encouragement to teach the French language, I do not think any liberal minded gentleman will refuse it. The hon. member for Murray Harbor asks what is the utility of the French language on this Island? and asks why not encourage the Gaelic as well? I will simply say this, that we sometimes hear French phrases used in this hon. House, and I am frequently amused at the awkward pronunciation given to them (laughter) for instead of pronouncing them with that soft accent with which they should be pronounced, they always use the hard, sharp English pronunciation. As to the Gaelic, we never hear a word of it. If we go to the other side of this building, where all the big volumes are kept, we will find among them a good many in French, but none in Gaelic. Although I am not an admirer of Confederation; yet, what do we know but at some future time we may form a part of the New Dominion, and I ask in what position would any of our Island delegates to Ottawa find themselves in if they did not understand the French language. When a speech in that language would be delivered, no doubt they would like to be able to understand the language then. I feel pleased that this small encouragement is proposed to be given to encourage the study of that language, and only regret the number to whom it is proposed to be given is limited to twenty. I would prefer that all our teachers would qualify themselves to teach that language, and thereby diffuse a knowledge of it throughout the Island.

Mr. McLENNAN.—Mr. Chairman, I do not fully understand the wording of the resolution, nor has the hon. member for Egmont Bay shown the necessity that exists for having it carried. The hon. Attorney General said that probably the day might arrive when there might be representatives from this Island, who would mix up with the great assembly of the New Dominion, and that they would find themselves awkwardly situated without a knowledge of the French language, but if it is now desirable that it should be taught, why confine the teaching of it to a few? Why not make it general?