

at Windsor, on August 18, 1874, in answer to the address of the St. Jean Baptiste society, expressed himself as follows :

But that is not the only ground on which we are indebted towards the French race. It should not be forgotten that to its breadth of mind, to its love of liberty and to its exact appreciation of the civil rights contained in germ in the constitution originally granted by England to Canada, that we owe the development of that parliamentary self-government of which our country is so proud, and justly so ; and I may assure you that for an Englishman, there are few things more agreeable to note than the dignity, the moderation and the political skill with which French public men in Canada lend a helping hand to their English colleagues in the application and working out of these great principles of constitutional law and practice which are at the foundation of the free government of this country.

In agriculture, according to the census of 1901, the habitant of the province of Quebec compares favourably with the Ontario farmer. In the dairy industry, the mainstay of Canadian farming, he stands as follows (see the Statistical Year-book of Canada, 1903, page 376) :

	No. of factories.	Butter, Lbs.	Cheese.	No. of Patrons.	Paid to Patrons.
Ontario	1,336	7,559,542	131,967,612	82,087	12,959,240
Quebec	1,992	24,625,000	80,630,199	100,830	11,039,279

If you wish to have an idea of our progress in farming, read the last number of the 'Canadian Magazine' (March, 1905, page 429) :

Enough evidence has been given to show the magnificent development which agriculture is attaining in the province of Quebec. It is a transformation so thorough, so vast, and so rapidly brought about, that it almost confounds the intellect.

A small people, almost unknown to the rest of the world, who had up to that time led a patriarchal life, attending solely to the cultivation of wheat and passing a happy existence in their isolation, are suddenly, through an upheaval in general economic conditions, compelled to turn all their attention and efforts to agriculture in a direction absolutely new to them, the creation and carrying on of the dairy industry. Silently, without noise or bustle, and with a quiet courage and reliance upon their own powers and resources, they undertook the task, and after a relatively very short period of time they have become one of the most expert in the new industry and one of the most important purveyors of dairy products for the other continent. And when we consider the immense resources of this small people by reason of the expansion they are capable of giving to the manufacture of butter and cheese, may we not reasonably ask whether a time shall not come when they will monopolize this industry and reap the advantages it affords.

Finally, looking at things from all points, if we consider that the population of the province of Quebec exercises the same spirit of industry, the same bold spirit of energy, the same working and business intelligence in all their undertakings and in all the various sources of activity existing in the favoured land which they occupy, and if we further take into consideration the moral qualities for which they are distinguished, their powers of expansion, their deep-seated attachment to their native land, and the abiding conviction that they have a providential mission to carry out on the soil of America, we are justified in coming to the conclusion that a brilliant future is in store for this favoured people.

In literature, sciences, arts, we have Garneau, Ferland, Crémazie, Fréchette, Chauveau, Raymond, Gérin, Baillargé, Lafamme, Hébert. And I see at this very moment on the floor of this House, a man whose literary talents, whose real worth as a journalist equal, to say the least, those of any of our English-speaking fellow-citizens. Who will deny that Mr. Tarte is not on a par with Mr. Willison, of the Toronto 'News' ?

You contend that our school system retards our progress; open our Statistical Year-book for 1903, at page 650 ; you will find that the census of 1901, contradicts your contention :

The province of Quebec shows a great decrease in the number of illiterates. In 1891 the province had 40.98 persons in every group of 100 who could not read; in 1901 there were 29.57 persons in each 100 group. In 1891 those under five years formed 14.71, and in 1901 14.41 of the number of illiterates. This leaves a net of 20.27 in 1891 and of 15.16 in 1901 of illiterates over five years of age in each group of 100.

Much has been said, outside of this House, about the Quebec hierarchy, in order to set the Potestant spirit at war with the system of separate schools. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to pay homage to that hierarchy of which we are proud, we French Canadians, allow me to thank them for having taken us as wards at the time of the cession, and for having formed men who have defended our rights whenever an opportunity offered. It is to that hierarchy, to those church authorities, scorned and slandered by the Toronto 'News' and the Toronto 'World' that our unfortunate poet Crémazie paid his tribute of gratitude, in the following lines :

Si nous avons gardé pur de tout alliage,  
Des pionniers français l'héroïque héritage,  
Notre religion, notre langue et nos lois,  
Si dans les premiers jours de notre jeune histoire,  
Nous avons, avec nous, vu marcher la victoire,  
Nous vous devons encor ces glorieux exploits.  
Car fécondant toujours le sol de la patrie,  
Des grands-urs de la foi, des éclairs du génie  
Vous gardiez ce dépôt, source de tous les biens,  
Où puisant les leçons des histoires antiques,  
Nos pères ont appris ces vertus héroïques  
Qui font les nobles cœurs et les grands citoyens.

May I be allowed to add that this hierarchy, faithful to their traditions of loyalty, are