

in the new provinces because of the additional expense. It would involve the additional expense of printing and the greater expense of translation. That, however, would be the smaller reason. The greater reason I would have for objecting to an official recognition of the French language in the new provinces would be the inconvenience attending its use. If for instance a French Canadian member should address this House in French, the greater number of us would fail to understand what he said. We would know that he was speaking eloquently by his manner of speaking, by the manner in which he appeals to the other members who understand him; but to us this language is a blank, whereas we might, perhaps, if we understood his speech, be considerably influenced by his argument. But when a member speaks in French, which the great majority of us do not understand, he fails to have any influence on the greater part of the House, and his speech loses a great part of its power and effect. I am surprised that our French colleagues, should insist, any of them, upon the use of the French language as an official language in the new provinces. It seems to me entirely unnecessary that it should be so recognized. When a French Canadian member, who would naturally speak French, gets up to address this House, he does not require to use any other language than the English to convey his ideas and make his meaning clear. We cannot but admire those hon. gentlemen, whose mother tongue is the French, but who address the House in English. They put the English speaking members to shame by the eloquence and ability with which they express themselves. The right hon. the First Minister, the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, the hon. the Solicitor General, and the very eloquent and able member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) on that side of the House, and upon this side of the House the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and the other French Canadian members, almost without exception surpass in eloquence and ability, while speaking in the English language, the English speaking members. And it would be cruel on their part to seek to use any language by which they would excel any more than they now do those of us who speak the English language. I can easily understand how it would appeal to every worthy sentiment of the French people that their language should be recognized as an official one. So it would appeal in like manner to the Germans that their language should be similarly recognized. We have many Germans in this country, they are pouring into the western provinces in very large numbers, they are as good citizens as we have in Canada, just as industrious, loyal and economical and as enterprising and as clever as the citizens of French or British origin; and just as it would appeal to the sentiments of the French Canadians that we should

use officially the French language, would the official use of the German tongue appeal to the Germans. But we do not appeal to the sentiments of Englishmen in using the English language. If we are in the same manner and to the same extent to reach the heart and appeal to the sentiment of what we may term the British Canadian, we will use, not the English language, but for one section the Gaelic, the language of the forefathers of the Highland Scotch. For another section, we would use the ancient Erse, and for another the language of Wales. But we do not do that. No one asks us to do that, and I say that the English language is a peculiar one. The English of to-day is a language of recent growth and construction—I might almost say of recent manufacture. It bears scarcely any resemblance to the old English of a few centuries ago. It is a composite language, drawn from many sources, contributed to largely by the French, and made richer, fuller and more expressive by that which is contributed to it from the beautiful language of the land across the channel. I say that the English language of to-day is a composite and a commercial language, and we do not appeal to the sentiment of the English people when we use it. There never was a day in the history of Canada when the French language was being studied by so large a number of the children of the British Canadian people as the present, and the use, the study, the knowledge of the French language will not be increased to any degree, it seems to me, by its official recognition in the two new provinces or be discouraged by the refusal to so recognize it. My hon. friend from Labelle has said that some people may make some unpleasant reference to the fact that the British conquered Canada in recent years. I have never heard any one make any such reference; but should any such reference be made, it could be easily replied that away back in the eleventh century French soldiers crossed the channel and conquered Britain; and I believe that the conquest in 1066 the infusion of French blood into British veins, consequent upon that French invasion, has made the people of the British islands a better people than they would be without it. And I believe that the time will come, in a more or less distant future, when we will have a better Canadian people because we have sprung, not alone from the British stock, but from the British and French and the German as well, and we shall see Canada prosperous and great, not because we have perpetuated differences of race or creeds or the jealousies which accompany such differences, but because, while not forgetting the traditions of France, or the glories of Scotland, or England, or Ireland, Wales or Germany, and the traditions of our ancestors from whatever land we have come, we realize that we are first of all Can-