

vinces in the future? My hon. friend has given this afternoon some figures that throw a great deal of light on this question. It is true that we are only four per cent. of the population in those two provinces. At one time there were, besides Indians, no other representatives of civilized nations but the French and the English. But if it is true that in 1901 only four per cent. of the population was French, it is equally true that only 47 per cent. was English speaking, including Scotch, Irish and Welsh; all the rest was composed of foreigners from other lands, men who have no traditions in common with the two original races in this country, who know nothing of our history, who know nothing of our constitution, which is now thirty-three years of age. I say it is the duty of the founders of these provinces, it is their duty to the descendants of those French pioneers who were the first to bring civilization to those western countries as well as the first to plant it on the shores of the St. Lawrence, to join hands with the English-speaking people in the resolve to unite these two races together so as to make that country great, a British country as long as possible; but at the same time to make it so far as traditions are concerned, an Anglo-French country, so as to realize that great idea of the former leader of the Conservative party whose memory and whose words are now impressed upon the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite. I appeal to the better feelings of my hon. friends of the Conservative party, I appeal especially to the better sentiments of the Liberal party, and I say: Let us follow the teachings of the men of 1867 and the men of 1870. Instead of looking into ancient documents, instead of quoting from books to ascertain what our rights are, to ascertain what was the intention of the fathers of confederation, let us recognize it more clearly in the words of Sir John A. Macdonald when he said that there should be no predominant race in Canada, that whether one was more numerous or less numerous than the other, whether one was poorer or richer than the other, was not to be considered; we should only keep in view that we are one united people, though cherishing in our memory what both races have done to build up this great country.

Why do you not join hands together and instead of catering for French votes or for English votes, look to the future as the great men who have built up our country did, and if so, why refuse to put into the constitution of these Territories the very provision which was put into the British North America Act, into that very clause 133 which had been read by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, and which says that both languages are official in this country? If it is disrespectful to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan to say that French shall be an official language, there, why should the English language be im-

posed upon us as an official language in Quebec? It may be stated to-day that the English language is the official language of this country because this is a conquered country. I am not going to use bitter words in regard to arguments of that sort. I quite realize that some of my English-speaking friends, who, perhaps, have forgotten some of the developments of our history and think only of such dates as 1759 and 1763, may think they are justified in saying that this is a conquered country; but I would refer my liberal friends to the speech delivered in 1890 in this parliament by the late Hon. David Mills, who proved conclusively that there was no such thing as an official language under the British constitution, that what gave an official language to a country was the language of the majority of its inhabitants, and that when Canada was taken over by the English it was not necessary to put into the Treaty of Paris that French was acknowledged as an official language, because the French language was the birth-right of the country. You have become the majority; is that a reason why you should deprive the people of the right to the official use of that language in these new Territories which had no constitution of their own when they joined confederation and therefore were not in the position of the older provinces? They were carved and created by the people of Canada out of virgin land, purchased by all the people of Canada, paid for by all the people of Canada, and I ask: Why do you not join hands with us and put into the constitution of these Territories the same principle which was put into the constitution as far as this parliament is concerned and as far as the legislature of the province of Quebec is concerned, and declare that the dual language shall be official in the Northwest Territories? Really, I cannot see, if my English-speaking friends are true to the traditions of their nation, why they should object to this. Do you think that the French Canadian people will be less loyal if their language is put there as the official language? If there is a black page in the history of England it is the attempt to impose the English language and English ways of education upon the old land of Ireland. For 400 years the attempt has been made by force of bayonets to impose the English language upon an unwilling people. Think you that the Irish people have been thereby made more loyal, or that they will be made English by law? No, Sir. To come back to our own land of Canada, which was the possession of a nation that had been fighting with your ancestors for years, do you think that the descendants of that nation would have become loyal if the British government had undertaken to enforce upon them the methods of government that have been carried on in Ireland?