

*(Calgary News Telegram.)*

Mr. Henri Bourassa has come, has spoken, and has gone. His reception was cordial, as it deserved to be, and the interest evinced in his utterances has seldom been duplicated on the occasion of a public address in Calgary.

Although a leader of so-called Nationalist sentiment in Quebec, it would, perhaps, not be accurate to say that Mr. Bourassa was typical of the public man from that province, though there are undoubtedly many of his character.

Mr. Bourassa has delivered many addresses on varied subjects during his visit to western Canada, and has given utterance to numerous sentiments, but, be the name what it might, the outstanding plea of the Nationalist here, as in his native province for its maintenance of the Mother tongue of France.

Doubtless there will be wide diversity of opinion as to the wisdom of such advice. Mr. Bourassa's compatriots who have settled in the west will certainly agree with him to a very great extent. It is only natural that they should, and in their aspirations they will have the sympathy of a large number of people outside of their own circle.

But it will be individual, not national, sympathy, for the great bulk of people of western Canada, we believe are firmly convinced that the hope of the west in the future lies in the assimilations of the hundreds of peoples who come to these plains from every nation in the world. This assimilation, we feel sure, can be accomplished only by the inculcation within the mind of the newcomer—whether from France, Quebec, Germany, England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy or Russia—of the supreme lesson that the great duty he owes himself, to his children and to this Canadian nation is to become a Canadian in every sense of the word.

No matter how it is viewed, English must be recognized as the official tongue of this American continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Circle, and English it must be. One common flag, one common school, and one common language is the only system which will bring about in the years to come that harmony and assimilation that is essential to the peace and prosperity of the Canadian commonwealth; and, though we can heartily sympathize with our French-Canadian fellow-citizens because of the national aspirations which have had to be sunk in almost every country under the sun in the process of nation-making, there must, nevertheless, be but one recognized tongue in the great new land between the Great Lakes and the Pacific ocean.