

TARTEISMS.

Gems from the Sayings of Hon. J. I. Tarte,
a Minister in the Cabinet of Sir Wilfrid
Laurier, Premier of the Loyal
British Colony of Canada.

The remembrance of the Motherland (France) still lives in Canada. But we are under the necessity of acting with policy and discretion.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in *Le Journal de Paris*, April 5, 1900.

Allow me to say so, and allow me to repeat it, we have remained French; we are more and more so; we are more French than we were twenty years ago, and more than we were a year ago. (Applause.)—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Rouen, France, June, 1900.

We represent over there the France of Europe, and I do not think I am mistaken in saying that before twenty-five years we shall form the majority in North America.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Rouen, France, June, 1900.

Our eyes are constantly turned towards you; your reverses strike us full in the breast; your success is our greatest joy. We are, certes, loyal British subjects, but above all French.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Rouen, France, June, 1900.

If one day you come, and I hope the greatest number among you will come, to visit Canada, you will see as you ascend the great river, discovered by your compatriot, Jacques Cartier, the tri-colour flag displayed above our villages, because it is the National flag of French-Canadians. (Loud applause.)—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Rouen, France, June, 1900.

Frank declarations (on South African war) might arouse the susceptibilities of the English, without satisfying the French.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in *Le Journal de Paris*, April 5, 1900.

It is quite possible that in their hearts 99 per cent. of the French-Canadians disapprove of the war and think that Canada could have put the money to more practical use.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in *Le Journal de Paris*, April 5, 1900.

Canada is much more French than it was thirty years ago, and if the tide of English immigration were to be directed elsewhere, the French-Canadians might recover the majority.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in *Le Journal de Paris*, April 5, 1900.

He eulogized Papineau, and said he was glad to be able to inform his audience that the grandson of the patriot, M. Bourassa, now sitting in the House of Commons, was no less eager and determined than his illustrious ancestor to preserve the nationality and uphold the rights of the French-Canadians.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

I feel keenly for the suffering of your country—of mine (France). As a child, I wore French sabots, and in my mother's room there was a French clock which told the hours, and is still in my possession. We sing French songs at home. Do you think that under these conditions I should love your country?—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in *Paris Figaro* interview, September, 1899.

There are two millions of French people in Canada. On national feast days, not a house but is decorated with French colours. See the Province of Quebec. It becomes more French, for French immigrants are coming in each day, and when the English are not in a majority in a country, when they are not masters, they get out.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in Paris Figaro interview, September, 1899.

Why should London, which is on an island, become the centre of the world, rather than Paris, the city of civilization, of liberty, of justice?—Hon. Mr. Tarte, in Paris Figaro interview, September, 1899.

The question is: Shall this country interfere or hold aloof in England's troubles? I say, and without hesitation, that this is a question upon which no hurried decision should be given; it is not a question of money, but of principle, and before the Liberal party makes up its mind as to the proper attitude to adopt, it should pause and consult Parliament.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Montreal Reform Club, October 10, 1899.

I declare here if a public man in the arena of Federal politics, who has not the energy and courage to say that he is French when he belongs to that race, it would be better for him to remain at home. I return from France, where I received the care that French science can give, and I return to Canada more French than ever.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at the Herbetts banquet, Windsor Hotel, October 9, 1899.

I am a Minister in a British Government, and I have the right to say that I am French. But I tell you this: If to declare myself a British subject would prevent me from being French, then I would refuse to call myself a British subject. We make no threats, as the ballot box is our best defence. We are happy and free under British institutions, but France is always my dear country.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Herbetts banquet, Windsor Hotel, October 9, 1899.

The vast and beautiful country known as Canada was once under the Dominion of France. He spoke regretfully of the change from French to English rule, laying stress on the hardships endured by the French-Canadians when the English language was substituted for their own, and they were left in ignorance of the laws they were bound to obey.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

The American refugees, or United Empire Loyalists, desirous of preserving their allegiance to the English throne, crowded into Canada and settled in many parts of it, being well received by the Government. But they soon conceived the idea that the country belonged to them, and they would have done away with the French language, French customs, and in fact destroyed the nationality of the French-Canadians if their

attempts in this direction had not been strenuously resisted.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

The Queen of England rules over, but does not govern her dominions.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

He dwelt on the warmth of French-Canadian affection for France, and said that though they lived under the British flag, yet on their festival days and in national celebrations, it was the tricolour that floated over their homes. They were French at heart and they would always be French.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

I will say, as I have often said before, that I am French, that I was never anything but French, and that I will always be French. In speaking thus I am voicing the feelings of my fellow-countrymen.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

I will not venture to prophesy concerning the future of Canada, but it may be supposed that in ten or twenty years, when the population shall have grown to as many millions, England may find it embarrassing to keep such a heavy child in her lap, and as the French-Canadians increase numerically much faster than their compatriots of different origin there is room for hope that a great and glorious destiny still awaits us.—Hon. Mr. Tarte, at Paris, June 21, 1900.

From beginning to end of his discourse, Mr. Tarte was listened to with profound attention. His allusions to France and the affection in which she is held by his countrymen, were warmly applauded. When he resumed his seat, M. Mager expressed his appreciation of the interesting conference, laying stress on the hint dropped by the Minister as to the probable future of Canada. "We will hope," was his concluding remark.—Close of Hon. Mr. Tarte's speech, Paris, June 21, 1900.

Will any fair-minded, self-respecting man of any race stand up and declare that these utterances by a Minister of the Crown, who has sworn allegiance to Britain's Queen, are either called for or excusable, or calculated to have any other effect than that of weakening the allegiance of the people of whom he speaks and arousing the cupidity of Britain's possible enemies? Are they the sentiments of a man imbued with a proper sense of his duty to the Empire? It is left to the electors to give their own answer. As they vote, so the world will know whether they approve or condemn. If Mr. Tarte was wrong in making such reprehensible declarations, his Premier and his colleagues are guilty as condoners, and the independent electors of this country are going to say so by their ballots.

For too has Sir Wilfrid declared: "NOTHING IS TOO GOOD FOR TARTE" ?