

AMERICAN VIEW OF QUEBEC

(From the Adrian (Mich.) Telegram)

To be sure, the election was the other side of the Detroit river; but that makes no difference. It was our victory just the same. It was a victory for Americanism. It was a moral triumph for the United States and for the American government just as much as though it had taken place in Ohio or Texas. It was a defeat for kaiserism, foreign factionalism and La Folletteism, just as much as though it had taken place in Wisconsin or Missouri.

The battle lines between us and our foes were clearly drawn in Canada. Our allies were the supporters of the Union government of Premier Robert Borden. Borden stood shoulder to shoulder with President Wilson, toeing the same mark. He and his government demanded conscription and an unflinching fight to the finish on the part of Canada. He was supported, just as our President is, by all native and loyal elements of the people.

On the other side was a group of insidious politicians of the type that is familiar to us on this side of the border, led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whom we might liken in a sense to La Follette. They were against conscription; they were for a "referendum." Laurier and his lieutenants had a strong following. This following was exactly the same in its actions as the copperhead element in the States, though it was of different composition. Of course every German copperhead in Canada was strong for Laurier, and there was much blarney about "Liberty" by men with a German accent who devoutly prayed that the Kaiser might make Canada a Prussian province. All other copperheads, native and foreign, were also for Laurier; so were the I.W.O., and a small and scattered following of pacifists.

But all these elements were insignificant compared with the sinister forces that arose in the French-speaking provinces, chiefly the province of Quebec. One might have expected the French-Canadians to have been the stoutest of fighters on our side, for they are French in speech, blood and religion, while politically they are British and owe their liberty and their protection to Great Britain. But it turned out exactly the other way. Led by their parish priests and a knot of politicians, the ignorant French-Canadians virtually repudiated their allegiance and defied their government. There were loyal elements among them, including many of the higher business circles and the higher clergy, but the overwhelming majority remained sullen, obstinate and defiant.

These anti-American elements were bolder in Canada than they were on our side. At Berlin, Ontario, for example (a German community and a hotbed of treason), Sir Robert Borden was howled down by a crowd of 500 German hoodlums. In Quebec free speech ceased to exist, nobody speaking for the government, the Unionist party or the war, could get a hearing, and it was difficult even to hire a hall because of the threats of violence. Thus the issue was squarely drawn. It was just as it would be in this country if the state of Wisconsin under La Follette should present a solid front against the government, refuse to let any American speak in

the state and openly defy the draft. It is hard for us to imagine such a condition. It is also hard to imagine ourselves putting up with it as patiently as the loyal Canadians have done.

Such a situation had to be met squarely. There could be no compromise; Canada had to find out whether Anglo-Saxon loyalty or foreign speaking treason was to rule. The line was drawn and every voter stepped on the side where he belonged. Fortunately the verdict is decisive—a majority of thirty or forty seats for the Union government. This means that Canada will proceed with conscription, and Quebec will have to fight with the Canadians or against them. We Americans can only hope that Quebec will be compelled by relentless force to take its dose of medicine to the last drop.

The moral insurgency of Quebec is a very sinister fact, and one that the United States cannot contemplate with unconcern. It is one more proof that the only safe course in North America is to extirpate foreign languages. In Canada it happened that the French language was the source of danger. In the United States it has been German. Perhaps at some future time it may be Italian, Russian or some other tongue. There is but one language that can be trusted; that language is English. There should be no press in any other language; there should be no schools conducted in any other language; there should be no meetings or public speeches in any other language.

We are beginning to see these truths, and we shall see them more clearly before this hideous war is over. In the end we shall act accordingly and so will Canada. North America is all Anglo-Saxon in its ideals and there can be no truce or compromise with foreign ideals, foreign sympathies or foreign languages. We—the true Americans and the true Canadians—have the power to make it so. If we do not, we are guilty of weakness and stupidity and amounts to a crime against posterity.

Commenting on the above article the Toronto News says:

A Michigan paper regards the insurgency of Quebec in the recent election as a sinister development, "and one that the United States cannot contemplate with unconcern." This particular American journal goes so far as to say that North America demands the extirpation of all languages except the English language. We doubt if many English-speaking Canadians are of this mind. We doubt if many of them would deprive Quebec of the privileges guaranteed to it under the British North America Act. But while English-speaking Canada leaves Quebec to its own devices and its own special privileges, eight out of nine provinces are determined that the special institutions of the ninth province shall not be forced upon them against their will. Ontario, for instance, is resolved that there shall be no purely French schools in this province and that all French children in this province shall have a reasonable opportunity to acquire the English language along with the French.

"The Evil Women Do," from the story "The Clique of Gold," by Emile Gaboriau, at the Orpheum, Monday

The final episode of "The Gray Ghost," Orpheum, Friday and Saturday.



City of Fernie

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CIVIC ELECTION FOR MAYOR, ALDERMEN, SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors of the Municipality of Fernie, and Fernie School District, that I require the presence of the said Electors at the Council Chamber, City Hall, Pellatt Avenue, Fernie, British Columbia, on the Fourteenth day of January, 1918, at twelve o'clock noon Coast Time (One o'clock P. M. Local Time) for the purpose of electing persons to represent them in the Municipal Council as Mayor and Aldermen and in the School Board as School Trustees, and on the Board of Police Commissioners as Police Commissioners.

The mode of nomination of candidates shall be as follows:

The candidates shall be nominated in writing; the writing shall be subscribed by two voters of the Municipality as proposer and seconder, and shall be delivered to the Returning Officer at any time between the date of the notice and two P.M. Coast Time (Three P.M. Local Time) of the day of nomination; the said writing may be in the form numbered 5 in the Schedule of this Act (Municipal Elections Act), and shall state the names, residence and occupation or description of each person proposed, in such manner as sufficiently to identify such candidate; and in the event of a poll being necessary such poll will be opened on the Seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1918, at the Council Chamber, City Hall, Pellatt Avenue, Fernie, British Columbia, of which every person is hereby required to take notice and govern himself and herself accordingly.

Qualification for Mayor

Any person who is a British subject of the full age of twenty-one years not disqualified under any law, and has for the six months next preceding the day of nomination been the registered owner, in the Land Registry Office, of land or real property in the City, of the Assessed Value, on the last Municipal Assessment Roll of one thousand dollars or more, over and above any registered judgment or charge, and who is otherwise duly qualified as a Municipal Voter.

Qualification for Alderman

Any person who is a British subject of the full age of twenty-one years, not disqualified under any law, and has for the six months next preceding the day of nomination been the registered owner, of land or real property in the City of Fernie, of the Assessed Value, on the last Municipal Assessment Roll, of five hundred dollars or more, over and above any registered judgment or charge, and being otherwise qualified to vote at an election of School Trustees in the said Fernie School District.

Qualification for School Trustee

Any person who is a British subject of the full age of twenty-one years actually residing within the District, and having been for the six months next preceding the date of nomination the registered owner, in the Land Registry Office of land or real property in the Fernie School District of the Assessed Value, on the last Municipal Assessment Roll, of five hundred dollars or more, over and above any registered judgment or charge, and being otherwise qualified to vote at an election of School Trustees in the said Fernie School District.

Qualification for Police Commissioner

Must be a British subject.

Given under my hand at Fernie, British Columbia, this second day of January, A.D. 1918.

Arthur J. Moffatt,
Returning Officer.



Orpheum, Wednesday & Thursday



PEARL WHITE, (Pathé)

Orpheum, Mon. and Tues.



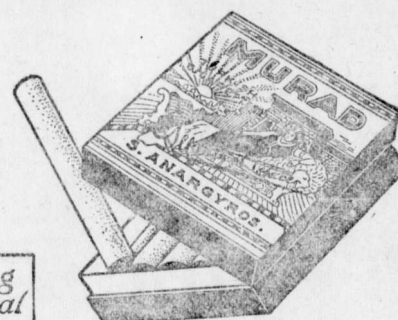
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MARION SWAIN "THE DEEMSTER"

At the Orpheum, Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 9 and 10.