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MONTREAL STAR SAYS QUEBEC LOYAL.

The Following editorial appeared in the Montreal Star on Tuesday, December 18th, 1917, the next day after the General Elections.

The position of Quebec to-day, with only three representatives in the Union, and these not French-Canadians, is a matter for deep regret. It revives in acute form Canada's greatest national problem, demanding for its solution the broadest and most far-seeing and most generous statesmanship.

The French-Canadian people could have been led to see the truth. Their instincts are right, but they form the one element of Canada's population that can be misled en masse by hysterical demagogues.

It is wrong to impute disloyalty to the mass of those who voted against the Union. Nobody can impugn Nova Scotia's loyalty for instance, but party feeling is still strong, and the glamor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's magnetic personality has not weakened with the years, and upon these strings clever men have played. Unquestionably those Nova Scotian Liberals who stood aside from the popular movement believed that Laurier would find a way to prosecute the war as vigorously and efficiently as the Union. They stuck to their politics as their old covenantsing forbears stuck to their gospel.

The situation in Quebec was different, but is explicable on the same grounds. Isolated in a large measure from the rest of Canada and from the great currents of the world by their language and by their naive lack of interest in outer affairs, the French-Canadians have been unquestionably less concerned in the war than their English-speaking confreres, and party politics has interfered with their proper education.

In this fertile field demagogues, bigots and evil counsellors of various sorts have sown a mischievous seed—helped not a little by men of their own type, but different creeds, in other provinces. By these the natural racial, lingual and psychological barrier between Quebec and her sisters has been built up and strengthened until to-day French-Canada is almost shut off from the Confederation and deprived of all voice in its government.

This is a condition which must not continue. We are all Canadians whose fundamental task is to rear upon this continent a great and noble nation. In this work we must labor together if we would succeed—French, English, Scotch, Irish and all our varied races, blended into one new and splendid nationality.

Let us resume it now, "WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE; WITH CHARITY FOR ALL."