

MR. JOSEPH MARTIN'S POLITICS

(From the Free Press)

Sir,—I have read in to-day's Tribune the speech of Mr. Joseph Martin and the editorial comment thereon. The whole burden of both speech and editorial seems to be a dreadful nightmare on French domination and the French hierarchy. And why all this abuse of Quebec? What has the ancient province done to merit it all? Are they trying to uproot the British constitution and bring upon the rest of Canada the destruction of her ancient rights and privileges? Is she asking anything for herself and her people that she has withheld in the slightest degree from her fellow subjects of another race? These are pertinent questions and require a careful scrutiny. Will Mr. Joseph Martin or his admirer, the Winnipeg Tribune, be good enough to point out to us any one instance in which the people of Quebec have shown any disposition to curtail in any way the rights of their fellow citizens of Canada. Let them produce their evidence and confound our contentions to the contrary. Let them go down to the province of Quebec where this dangerous hierarchy holds sway and tell us how their English speaking brothers are treated. Surely if Quebec is such a danger to the rights and liberties of the rest of Canada, it should be doubly—ah, trebly dangerous to that portion of Canada lying within her own boundaries. I therefore invite Mr. Martin and the Tribune to come down with me to that province and view in all its nakedness the dreadful treatment meted out to its Protestant friends by the French Canadian majority, led on by the hierarchy of their church. It is nothing unusual in that benighted province to find English-speaking Protestants elected to represent constituencies overwhelmingly French and Catholic, and not one word of reproach coming from the priests and bishops. Will Mr. Joseph Martin and the Tribune tell us how many English-speaking and overwhelmingly Protestant constituencies are represented by French Canadian Catholics, or for that matter by any Catholic of any race or tongue. If Quebec was graspingly stretching out, as Mr. Martin would have us believe, to rule and ruin this country, would such great toleration reign within her own boundaries, where this dangerous hierarchy are supreme. During the debate on the autonomy bills creating the new western provinces, every Protestant member from Quebec bore eloquent testimony to the tenderly tolerant treatment that the majority in Quebec showed the minority.

And now, sir, coming to those dreadful separate schools, which, next to the stomach and unsettle the reason of Mr. Joseph Martin and the Tribune, let me ask who is responsible for them? They were first called into existence in Canada, in the province of Quebec—not by the French hierarchy, but by the English-speaking Protestants. That, sir, was the beginning of separate schools in Canada. And why? Simply because these Protestants were in the minority. Quebec listened to their prayer and like sane, sensible, and liberty loving people, said the prayer of the minority is reasonable. And they granted the prayer. I defy Mr. Joseph Martin or the Tribune to give me one single instance in which they

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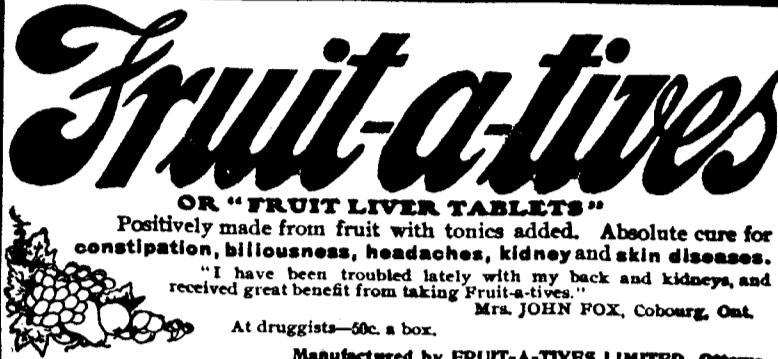
have failed to honestly and faithfully carry out all they then granted. Nay, more, I challenge either Mr. Joseph Martin or the Tribune to give one instance where the French majority ever refused to grant any reasonable request asked for by the Protestant minority.

Again, when separate schools were established in Manitoba, the Catholic population was the majority. When the majority became Protestant those schools were abolished and abolished in the most disgraceful manner. It is all very well for Mr. Joseph Martin to get up before a Winnipeg audience and prate about public men violating their public pledges, etc.

Sir, I venture to say that there never was a public man in Canada, either past or present, that has been guilty of a meaner act of repudiation than he himself. Did the citizens of Winnipeg forget this when they were cheering themselves hoarse last night? When Mr. Joseph Martin wanted to bring himself into power in 1888, he made the most solemn pledge to the electors of St. Francois Xavier that if they would elect Mr. Francis, a Protestant Englishman, and defeat Mr. Burke and the then government he would not pass any legislation inimical to their schools or language. These French electors took him at his word. They elected Mr. Francis and brought Mr. Martin into power. Two years afterwards he shamelessly and most dishonorably violated these sacred pledges. A pretty kind of individual to hold up the standards of honor and honesty in the politics of Canada. A clean and honorable gentleman, truly, and well fitted and equipped to criticize the conduct of our public men.

Also, Mr. Editor, the Catholics were again in the majority in 1875, when separate schools were given to the Northwest Territories. In every instance in the history of separate schools in Canada, save in the province of Ontario, the Catholics were in the majority wherever those schools were established. They were always established on the prayer of the minority—and granted. Why, then, this howl for their abolition? Is it because circumstances have changed and the Catholics are in the minority? Or is it because the great, good, pious and tolerant gentlemen who are howling for their abolition have learned that what they asked for when in the minority is not good for them now that they are in the majority.

This whole agitation against Quebec, when boiled down, amounts to this: A solid Quebec stands for justice and right and Mr. Joseph Martin and the



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Tribune are provoked because they cannot get a solid Protestant vote to stand for justice and intolerance. Forty per cent. say: "Treat us as we have always treated you." And because Mr. Martin can only get a percentage of the sixty per cent. ("Goats," with Biblical appropriateness he calls them) to follow him in his disrupting policy, he gets mad. It will be a sad thing for Canada, its prosperity, and its peace, when Mr. Martin's third party is an influence in the land.

J. K. BARRETT.

Winnipeg, Sept. 15.

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THE PRIZE IDIOT

The "Leader" of San Francisco has discovered a reporter on the "Call" of that city, who is the banner blunderer

in describing Catholic Church ceremonies. This reporter was at the San Francisco Cathedral on the Feast of the Assumption, and he told the readers of his paper on the following day that "at solemn Benediction the Archbishop besprinkled the altars and blessed the holy rituals with incense." "Besprinkling the altars at solemn Benediction is certainly a novel ceremony," says the "Leader." "It is unknown in Catholic liturgy. Only the rubricist of the 'Call' could detect the Archbishop in such a performance. We are quite sure his Grace knew nothing about it, unless he has experienced the joy of reading the 'Call.' But 'blessing the holy rituals with incense' surpasses the other weird effort of the reporter's fancy. It is unintelligible, impossible, and unimaginable. It is the conception of a simpleton, or the delusion of a pipe-dream. It means as much as if the reporter had written that a policeman had arrested the sidewalk for vagrancy."

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