

pursuance of the object for which it was established, to regret the divisions which seem to exist among the people of the Province of Ontario in connection with the bilingual school question and believes that it is in the interest of the Dominion at large that all such questions should be considered on fair and patriotic lines and settled in such a way as to preserve peace and harmony between the different national and religious sections of this country, in accordance with the views of the Fathers of Confederation, and with the spirit of our Constitution.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—I approach the discussion of this question with considerable diffidence by reason of the fact that it is considered by many a very controversial question, and should not be discussed in this chamber with a view of expressing an opinion upon it, as has been suggested by the mover of the resolution. It is a question, after all, which affects Canada in many ways, and I must congratulate the hon. mover of this resolution and the hon. gentleman who seconded it, for the very moderate way in which they presented their views. In all public questions which arise in this country, deliberative bodies above all others should deal with them in a moderate and judicial way, and if I should depart from that course in the short speech I purpose making, I simply will regret it, because it will be in total disaccord with the views which I entertain. It may be termed a somewhat delicate question, and it is a delicate question, because it interests very materially and very especially a large portion of the people of the Dominion of Canada. By no means should it be made a party question. If it were a party question, then in my humble opinion it should not be discussed in this Chamber, because I believe that, when gentlemen come to this Chamber, they should act as judges dealing with all questions that arise in a judicial spirit, and not as partisans, and I will say here frankly that if I believed for one moment that this motion was introduced for party purposes, I certainly should decline to discuss it. Under no consideration would I, while having a seat in the Senate, join in the discussion of any question whatsoever from a party standpoint. Upon this question very erroneous ideas indeed are expressed in the country, because the world outside does not know how this Chamber particularly deals with questions. Many people in the country believe that gentlemen here discuss every question from a partisan standpoint. I deny absolutely any such position, not only for myself, but for the whole body of this Chamber. Our journals unfortunately,

however, deal with subjects of this kind in a partisan spirit, and if I may be permitted to read a short editorial from one of the Toronto newspapers, it will be seen that outside of this Chamber, at least, most of these questions are discussed in the manner which I have described. The following is an editorial which appeared in the Toronto Evening Telegram:

Ontario Assailed by the Output of Laurier-Bossed Slander Mills.

Ontario is maligned by the activity of those two Laurier-bossed slander mills, the Legislature of Quebec and the Senate of Canada.

Laurier has power to call off his puppets in the Quebec Legislature and the Canadian Senate. Ontario is sending her English-speaking sons by birth or adoption to fight and die for the rights of Roman Catholic Belgium and the national existence of Quebec's motherland—France. This province exerts all her strength to defend Roman Catholic nations in the right against the land of Luther in the wrong. Yet to-day Ontario is being slandered and her people maligned by Laurier's agents in the Legislature at Quebec and Laurier's puppets in the Senate at Ottawa.

Laurierism has for the allies of her warfare upon Ontario such organs as the apostate Globe and the recreant Star. Laurierism is helped by the apostate and recreant Rowell opposition. That opposition is quite content to have Ontario traduced by the Quebec Legislature and slandered by the Canadian Senate in the process of winning French-Canadian votes for Laurier. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier goes out of Ontario with ten federal seats or less the calamities of Laurierism will not be due to Ontario's affection for Sir Robert Borden or Ontario's admiration for most of Sir Robert Borden's cabinet ministers from this province. Ontario has scores to settle with Sir Robert Borden and Sir Robert Borden's cabinet. Ontario's accounting with the Borden Government can wait. Ontario's day of reckoning with the truce-breaking Laurierism that strikes at this province through its agents in the Quebec Legislature and its anti-dreadnought puppets in the Senate cannot be postponed beyond the opening of the polls at the next general election.

In reading this editorial I want it distinctly understood that I do not desire to stir up any passion or feeling of any kind. I only want to show what an incorrect idea exists as to this Senate; I am not here to defend Sir Wilfrid Laurier or any particular party; but I can vouch for it, as a matter of fact, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier knew nothing about the resolution moved by my hon. friend, heard nothing about it, and never was consulted about it. I can vouch also for the fact that he had no connection with Premier Gouin of Quebec and knew nothing of his speech until he saw the reports of it in the newspapers. I desire further to say that the proprietor of the paper from which I have just read is one of the most kind-hearted, considerate and charitable men in