

THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND.

We fail to see that the Ontario government has any reason to object to the formation in Ottawa of these mutually independent school boards or committees. We are not asking the government to create a new system of schools. We demand merely a new type of school board. It is unreasonable and impracticable to forcibly unite under joint management two fully developed sets of schools, different in language of instruction, different in curriculum, different in teachers' qualifications, different in inspectors. We have no objection to the French having their schools, but we do hold that they should pay for them. We object to a large part of our revenue going to their support, especially since we have great need of it ourselves.

OBJECT TO SYSTEM.

We object to the present system, which permits the French voters of this city, who have a set of schools more different from our English Separate Schools than are the Public Schools from the Separate Schools, to elect our trustees, to control our schools, and to spend our money. We maintain that, while temporary makeshifts may be found, the only satisfactory and permanent solution of the Ottawa Separate School difficulty is complete separation of the English Separate Schools and the Bilingual Separate Schools. The French of this city have rejected this perfectly fair proposition with scorn and insults. Perhaps some day they may realize that it is also their only salvation.

"FRENZIED FINANCE."

Meanwhile as long as we are forced to remain in partnership with the Bilingual trustees, we are bound to see that our partners do not ruin us. Unfortunately our partners have attempted and are attempting to ruin us, by their insurrectionist plan of campaign and frenzied finance.

INVOLVED WHOLE BOARD.

The Bilingual trustees by illegally defying a government regulation have involved the whole board in rebellion and have lost the government grant for 1913 as a first consequence. It is impossible to maintain a government system of schools in defiance of the government. The Separate Schools of Ontario form an integral part of the government schools of Ontario. They were established not to teach French, but to teach English to Catholics.

Concessions as regards the teaching of French have since been made both in the Public and Separate Schools, the regulations being identical for each. If the French desire greater concessions, there are constitutional means of obtaining them. But we do not intend to let the French ruin our Separate Schools, while they use militant tactics to obtain more French teaching.

APPEAL TO COURTS.

Meanwhile, since the government has not acted effectively, we have been forced to appeal to the courts. We are not going to allow the Bilingual promoters of a frenzied finance to squander the money of our electors. So we, the members of the English Committee of Trustees, in conjunction with the two defeated English candidates of St. George's and Dalhousie wards, have applied for an injunction to prevent the issue of debentures and for a mandamus to force the Bilingual trustees to obey the law.

In view of the lack of credit of the Ottawa Separate School Board owing to its defiance of the government and loss of the government grant, in view of the stringency in the money market, enormous liabilities and high school rate of the Separate Schools, in view of all this, to issue debentures for \$275,000 or \$350,000 would be simply frenzied finance; and as it is intended to use about half of this money to build schools which will be conducted in defiance of the government, it would be simply misappropriating public funds. We believe that by means of the courts we shall be able to defend the interests of our electors.

OTTAWA, April 29th, 1914.