

Our Montreal Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent)

SPEECH OF FRANK J. JACKMAN ON THE NEW PARISH.

The movement for the new English-speaking Parish for Westmount is progressing, but the anti's are also busy. The estimated English-speaking Catholic families in Westmount number 400. The assessed value of homes of English-speaking Catholics is over \$3,000,000. The English-speaking Catholics last year contributed \$15,000 to St. Leo's Church, and paid in school taxes \$23,000.

At the dinner given at the Windsor Hotel on the evening of May 14th, Mr. Frank J. Jackman was the proposer of the toast "Our English-speaking Parish for Westmount." He said:—

Gentlemen.—In forming this new parish, our English-speaking Catholics are performing the greatest effort for our people, since the establishment of St. Patrick's Church, 80 years ago.

For nearly 200 years it has been the tradition of the English, Irish and Scotch settlers of this continent, to establish for themselves a spiritual home, wherever there was a group of 125 families or more. The wisdom and vision of the founders of this tradition are seen in the United States today, where our people through their hierarchy are the greatest force against Bolshevism, Socialism and Atheism. As a direct result also of this foresight on the part of our forefathers, we find, that in the United States, over 50 per cent. of the hospitals are directly under our supervision, although we only form 13 per cent. of the whole population.

It is our duty, therefore, as English-speaking Catholics, to carry on these traditions so nobly adhered to by our forefathers in Canada and the United States, and to make our plans for the future so we will be organized, and thus do our part in building up a great Canadian citizenship for our people. We can do this, gentlemen, by having, first a Bishop of our own, and as Rome recognizes this, it does not take a prophet to foresee that we will have an English-speaking Diocese in the Province of Quebec, before many of us here are gathered to our Fathers.

In making our plans for the future, we must not look upon Montreal as a city of a million people, nor Canada as a Nation of nine millions, we must visualize Montreal twenty-five years from now with a population of 3 millions and Canada a country of 27 millions, with an English-speaking Bishop in the Province of Quebec. This Province, which we hope shall always be Catholic, will be the centre of thought for Canada, for we are ever with our French Canadian friends in things Catholic and always with our Protestant friends in their demands for the rights of the minority. Therefore, a great work lies ahead of our people, but only by our being united can much be done to ensure our success spiritually, socially and economically. Illustrating the lack of unity and co-operation among our people, may I point out to you that although the English and Scotch Protestants came to this city about the same time as we did, they have more money invested to-day in three single institutions than the total wealth of our people on the Island of Montreal. It is useless for us to attempt to build up like institutions without a Bishop of our own, because this institution is the basis upon which the religious, social and economic life of a people is nourished.

The question of vocations for the priesthood and the religious life, representation in civic politics, Board of Trade, Presidencies of large industrial concerns, Banks and

Companies—all these, gentlemen, and innumerable other items of spiritual, social and economic value to our people will begin in the palace of our English-speaking Bishop.

It will come, and sooner than we expect, and this is why I said in the beginning, that our establishing this new Church is the greatest piece of constructive work done by our people since the establishment of St. Patrick's Church; for we will bring together under our own spiritual roof, men of education and wealth equal to filling any position in political or industrial life. However, even with men of this calibre, it is impossible to successfully build up such institutions as English-speaking parishes, hospitals, schools, colleges, a University, and commercial institutions such as a Trust Company, and an English Catholic newspaper, without the guidance and personal interest of a Bishop of either English, Irish or Scotch extraction.

With regard to our new parish, gentlemen, let us make this petition the unanimous voice of all the English-speaking Catholics in Westmount.

With little organization over two hundred have now signed, and with a little added effort on the part of each one of us, our object can be attained within the next ten days.

I need not point out to you, gentlemen, the advantages of having a parish of our own. As soon as our Parish Priest is installed he will institute the many practices which have for generations been so dear to the hearts of our forefathers, such as societies for men and women, sodalities for our young people, missions and all other comforts and consolations which are attached to our beautiful faith.

Confident, therefore, that each of us present here this evening will give his continued support to this movement, and thus make it a great success, I ask you to rise and drink with me, the health of the new English-speaking Parish of Westmount.

RETIREMENT OF A NOTABLE JUDGE.

Chief Justice LeBeuf, of the Circuit Court, one of the most picturesque figures in Canadian life, retired from the Bench, Friday, May 22nd, the eve of his 75th birthday. The Gazette says:—

"Though hale and ruddy, with the fiery energy of forty years ago still burning brightly, the jurist must himself now bow before the law which decrees that with the dawn of the seventy-fifth birthday must come retirement. So, after eighteen years in the Circuit Court, where, as Chief Justice, he won the respect and admiration of the Bar and the public, Mr. Justice LeBeuf now lays aside his judicial robes and takes farewell of the halls of justice which he has known, as barrister and judge, for fifty-two years.

Born at St. Timothee, Beauharnois County, on May 23, 1850, of Joseph LeBeuf and Judith Picard, the future jurist studied at the College of St. Timothee, and at the Seminary at Ste. Therese de Blainville. After studying English for some time at Regiopolis College, Kingston, Ont., the young LeBeuf studied law at McGill, graduating with the degree of B.C.L. in 1873. Shortly afterward he was called to the Bar.

But just before his formal enrolment as barrister, the future judge distinguished himself by a brilliant exploit which made him the hero of Beauharnois county, and paved the way for many of his successes.

A reference to old newspaper files will show that on May 13, 1873, the steamer Louis Renaud, plying in the Lachine Rapids, ran on the rocks and broke in two. The bow of the vessel sank, and most of what remained threatened to go down at any moment. One hundred and eighty passengers, many of whom were women and children, panicked by the catastrophe, sought the boats, but were driven back by the escaping steam from the boilers.

In the pandemonium, young Calixte LeBeuf and two companions sought to lower a boat for the scalded women and children, but just as they had floated it, the captain and some of the crew jumped into it, cut the cables and rowed off. The young law graduate, who had found a revolver, emptied it at the deserting navigators, wounding the captain in the thigh, but failing to stop the escape.

The future judge then took charge of the vessel, revolver in hand, keeping order, and caring for the injured passengers until the arrival of two canoes which shot the rapids and plied all night, saving every one. Last to leave was Calixte LeBeuf and his companions. Shortly afterwards the vessel sank.

While this exploit was still ringing through the counties, the young lawyer mounted the hustings under the Liberal banner, pleading so eloquently for the late E. H. Blouin, notary, that the latter was returned to the provincial Legislature for Beauharnois county, which had been Conservative for twenty-five years.

Though he never ran for political honors himself, Mr. Justice LeBeuf won fame as a campaigner, and he became one of the trusted right-hand men of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Colorful anecdotes are told of Mr. Justice LeBeuf's many campaigns with the old chief, not only in the eastern townships of this province, where he frequently shared the same room and

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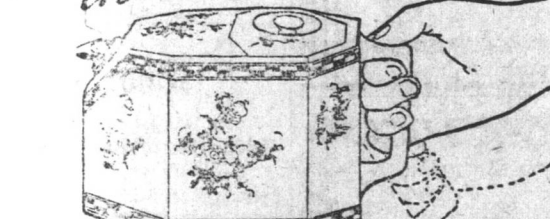
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