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OUR NATIONAL SPEECH

OUR GUARANTEE

No advertisement is allowed in our Columns until we are satisfied that the advertiser is absolutely reliable and that any subscriber can safely do business with him. If any subscriber is defrauded by E. H. Heath Co., Ltd., we will make good the loss resulting therefrom. If the event takes place within 30 days of date advertisement appeared, and complaint is made to us in writing with proofs, not later than ten days after its occurring, and provided, also, the subscriber in writing to the advertiser, stated that his advertisement was seen in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer." Be careful when writing an advertiser to say that you saw the advertisement in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer."

EVERY BABE THAT IS BORN or imported into Canada is a final reason why the present Manitoba statute law as to language should be abolished. Certain politicians and panic-struck ecclesiastics are doing their utmost by argument and threat to save it, but like the old parish pulpit stricken with dry rot, its fate is the furnace—it is not worth saving. There will be whole batteries of argument fired off before it is finally got rid of, but no honest man in his senses will advance one solid reason why that bi-lingual law should be perpetuated. If there are "treaty obligations" bound up with it, anything of the kind that may be pre-

of a few acres in the bottom lands of the Missouri "holding on"—marooned in the centre of a swirling flood that is rapidly washing away the last square foot of crumbling soil that gives him standing room. That is practically the position of the men who send ten children to a particular school and insist that the language of their native province shall take precedence of all else in the education of their young people. The tragedy of it is that the children, not the men, become the victims.



THE HON. DR. THORNTON,
Minister of Education, Manitoba.

served on sheepskin became abortive from the day they were engrossed by the unwritten laws of justice, of human progress in that part of them which involves our obligations to the children.

The Minister of Education has taken it from this viewpoint. We hadn't expected anything else from the man than this courageous act of statesmanship. For years, the fate of our "foreign-born" children has been at the mercy or caprice of a clique of piffing politicians, not only in Manitoba but elsewhere in the Dominion where colonies of foreign-speaking folks have taken root. What that meant was foreseen from the first by men and women who claimed no special gifts in prophetic instinct. Rectitude, the genius of fair play and common sense alone inspired them, but they "went down to defeat" because these homely virtues had no chance when "matched" with the equipment and "influence" of the party boss. They were silenced and snowed under by flamboyant mountebanks and the cumulative weight of political corruption. This phase of our national life, however, we hope and believe has reached that point where it receives decent but utterly destructive burial.

Prescriptive rights are not usually given in perpetuity, but millions of self-centered mortals believe that they are and cling to them with a tenacity worthy of a nobler purpose. The man who will "insist upon his rights" at all costs forever holds them to his own ruin. Witness the owner

Poor, purblind fools, will it ever dawn on these Ruthenian neighbors that the purpose is to give these young hopefuls something; to give them such a start in life that they will at least suffer from no such handicap as that of being unable to make themselves understood anywhere outside of their own, little, parochial circle? How

can it be finally brought home to these men except through the medium of beneficial legislation that it is the desire of no man to deprive them of a single right or privilege? Is Canada expected to "carry on" as an integral part of the British Empire, or shall any portion of it be reserved as a recruiting ground for some foreign state?

What we have said is in no hostile spirit to a single foreign speaking section or individual of it. Far is it from any other feeling than that of peculiar tenderness for those of our race who do not speak the English tongue that we take our small part in urging the passage of this bill. Behind it, we are persuaded, there is the single-minded purpose to break down the last barrier that stands between "the foreigner" and his full enjoyment of every right or privilege known to Canadian citizenship. In Dr. Thornton's own words: "We are building under the British flag a new nationality. We come from many lands and cast in our lot, and from these various factors there must evolve a new nationality which shall be simply Canadian and British." The common school must be the melting pot. We never pass a school playground but there rises in our memory the prayer of the old Scottish dominie: "God grant it may never be our part to injure the destiny of those dear bairns, or to move their souls one step from Thee."

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