

TEUTON LOSSES SINCE WAR BEGAN 2,822,079

LAURIER'S APPEAL TO RACIALISM

Grit Leader Introduces Bi-Lingual Issue Into Arena of Federal Politics.

PREMIER REPLIES IN STRIKING SPEECH.

Sir Robert Shows that Resolution Cannot Result in any Good and May have Disastrous Results.

Ottawa, May 10.—(Special).—Parliament today saw a remarkable scene, spectacular but ever to be regretted. It saw the leader of one of the two great political parties of the Dominion, a former premier whom the Canadian people have signally honored, introducing a provincial issue involving racial feud with all its bitterness into the arena of federal politics. After a lifetime of public duty Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the age of seventy-four appeared before the country today as a French-Canadian nationalist, he strove to place the introduction of the bilingual resolution upon a high plane, to give it the status of the praiseworthy appeal of a down-trodden minority to the mercy of a majority, but the effort failed. It failed because the Ontario bilingual question had no business to be discussed upon the floor of the Canadian parliament.

Stripped of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's careful phrasing it was nothing more nor less than a political appeal to racialism. It was attempted to be shown that the French-Canadians of Ottawa were face to face with the martyrdom of their language, but there was no attempt to be specific in the charges. There was only the reference to the educational regulations of the province of Ontario and a construction placed upon them which was inimical to the French-Canadian language.

The question, "shall decision of the chair be sustained," was put and a division followed. The Speaker's ruling was sustained by a vote of 134 to 9. Mr. Northrup was the only Conservative who voted to reverse the decision, and he was supported by the following Liberal members: Hon. Frank Oliver, W. E. Knowles, of Moose Jaw; Levi Thompson, of Qu'Appelle; Dr. Michael Clarke, of Red Deer; Robert Cruz, of Dauphin; Thomas MacNutt, of Saltcoats; James Douglas, of Strathcona, and W. A. Buchanan, of Medicine Hat.

Mr. Laurier then arose to speak to his motion. He said that after careful and serious consideration, he had come to the conclusion that it was

GERMAN ARMY'S CASUALTIES FOR MONTH OF APRIL ESTIMATED AT 91,162

London, May 10.—An official British estimate of German casualties in April, issued here today, places the total at 91,162. The number of German casualties since the beginning of the war is given as 2,822,079. These figures were given in the following statement:

"Casualties, exclusive of corrections, were reported during the month of April, 1916, as follows:

"Killed or died of wounds, 17,455; died of sickness, 2,895; prisoners, 1,921; missing, 6,317; severely wounded, 14,557; wounded, 4,001; slightly wounded, 38,979; wounded remaining with units, 5,637; total, 91,162.

"These, added to those reported in previous months, including corrections reported in April, 1916, bring the totals reported in German official lists since the beginning of the war to: Killed or died of wounds, 664,552; died of sickness, 41,325; prisoners, 137,798; missing, 197,094; severely wounded, 335,515; wounded, 254,687; slightly wounded, 1,023,312; wounded remaining with units, 117,956. Total, 2,822,079.

"These figures include all German nationalities—Prussians, Bavarians, Saxons and Wurttembergers. They do not include naval or colonial troops."

his imperative duty to introduce such a resolution. He knew that the course which he had adopted would be disagreeable to many, and that he would receive remonstrances and even castigations. But, he felt that ignoring problems was not solving them.

The member for Kamouraska said that it was impossible to prevent troublesome questions from being thrust into the present arena, but he thought that, after fifty years of consideration, the two branches of the Canadian family should be able to put aside the fanatics and the demagogues and settle their controversies in the spirit described by Abraham Lincoln: "with charity for all."

Mr. Lapointe said that the resolution did not call for the disallowance of any provincial laws, and it did not imply any censure upon the course of the government in dealing with petitions praying for the disallowance of recent Ontario legislation. Indeed, said Mr. Lapointe, I personally believe that disallowance would have been a disaster. The resolution might have increased the disease. Coercion of any kind will not settle the difficulties. I am a true Liberal and a believer in provincial rights. I will go as far as to admit that to be effective and final, any settlement of this question must be made in Ontario and by Ontario herself."

Mr. Lapointe spoke of the generous treatment which Great Britain had accorded to the South African and said that the same spirit of British fair play was shown in all the enactments of the British parliament with respect to Canada from the Quebec act of 1774 to the present time. He pointed out that the French was recognized as an official language in parliament and also in the naturalization act, which required a candidate for naturalization to be able to speak either English or French. In view of these facts he held that to contend that French was no more than a foreign language in the Canadian provinces, was utter nonsense. Mr. Lapointe said that the regulations of the Ontario education department were said to be intended not to prevent the teaching of French but to improve the bi-lingual schools. There was no doubt in his mind that those regulations proceeded slowly, obligingly but surely toward one end, namely, the strangling of the French language. French was to be taught only in schools where it was taught previous to 1912 and only with the consent of the inspector from whose decision there was no appeal. "I cannot conceive," asserted Mr. Lapointe, "how such a condition of affairs could have the approval of a fair-minded man. Surely this is not liberty."

Sir Robert Borden pointed out that Mr. Lapointe had failed to show in what respect regulation 17 had resulted in unfairness and injustice to the French-Canadians of Ontario. Without inquiry or even without having before him the legislation called in question, parliament was called upon to administer an admonition to the province of Ontario, in regard to a matter which had already been thoroughly debated in its legislature.

Reference had been made by Mr. Lapointe to an alleged attempt to proscribe the French language in Ontario. In this regard Sir Robert stated he had been informed that Ontario not only maintained schools for the training of bi-lingual teachers, but paid their travelling expenses, board and other expenses, and afforded them free tuition and what was more, gave a special grant towards bi-lingual schools. Did that look like proscription of the French language in Ontario? The premier went on to quote from the B. N. A. Act to show that it placed the French and English languages on a par as the official languages for use in federal affairs and public affairs in Quebec, in the federal parliament and federal courts and in the Quebec legislature and Quebec courts. Subject to this provision the provinces had plenary powers to deal with the French language in Ontario.

For these and other reasons Sir Robert continued, he believed that Mr. Lapointe's resolution was opposed to the best interests of Canada. He quoted from statements of Sir Edward Blake in 1890 that there should be no disallowance by the federal parliament of provincial educational legislation and that no address should be passed

There were some who told him he had no right to come to parliament to plead that cause and that the Ontario legislature was the only forum for such a discussion. Only a few weeks ago he had been appealed by the Orange Sentinel in a letter signed by its editor, Mr. Hocken, to interfere in the question and to give his views. "Therefore," exclaimed Sir Wilfrid, "if I am to accept this challenge, this invitation extended to me, where am I to answer it, if not from my place in this House?"

The Orange Sentinel had addressed Sir Wilfrid as the "leader of the French race in Canada," but had feared he was allowing himself to be supplanted by Mr. Henri Bourassa. "I never had that proud title," said the leader of the opposition, "I never surrendered it to Mr. Bourassa." He and Mr. Bourassa had found themselves on opposite sides of many questions and in recent events he thought the latter was nearer to the hearts of friends of the Orange Sentinel than himself. "It has been my honor for 28 years," continued Sir Wilfrid, "to be accepted as the leader of Liberal Canadians, Canadians of all origins, Canadians by birth and Canadians by adoption who found their ideals in those principles of British Liberalism, cardinal among which was the protection of minorities. I have been at their head in good report and in ill report, in victory and in defeat, and in many an agitation and on every occasion I have endeavored to find a solution in the consciousness of the men who love freedom, justice and tolerance. Let me say, whilst I am the leader of the Liberal party, I am also of French origin. I ask no man to follow me on this occasion. I want no man to vote with me unless he believes in his heart that the cause which I am now advocating is the right cause."

Sir Wilfrid said that he could not quarrel with the government for not disallowing the Ontario act dealing with the Ottawa situation. Disallowance instead of giving satisfaction had given rise to many of the agitations which had arisen in the country. If the act had been disallowed it might simply have been re-enacted at a succeeding session of the legislature. While he did not blame the government for not disallowing the legislation of Ontario he was sorry that the government had not seen fit to draw the attention of Ontario to the complaint of the minority. He looked upon the remedy of the constitution as illusory as that of dissolution, saying that the present agitation was causing antagonism which no decision of the courts could allay.

The leader of the opposition contrasted the treatment accorded by Great Britain to the natives of Africa, who were allowed to use their language and teach it to their children with that of the people of Alsace and Lorraine by the Germans.

"Of my fellow citizens of Ontario," he proceeded, "I ask which is the better example to follow? All I ask is that in the province of Ontario and in Manitoba as well, we be allowed to have the language of our fathers." Regarding Sir Robert Borden's comparison of his attitude toward the Manitoba situation in 1896 with his present attitude he spoke of the Prime Minister's argument as "lacking in dignity and strength." The legislature of Manitoba, he said, had put an end to a system which was a disgrace to it and the parliament of Canada had proposed to pass an education act over the heads of the legislative assembly of the province. The people of Manitoba had rejected the action of the federal parliament and he had opposed the proposed federal legislation. He had done more. He had taken the course he was now advocating and had appealed to the legislature and people of Manitoba to end an evil they themselves had created. Manitoba had consented to amend its own act which was agreeable to the majority of its people and was obnoxious to the minority. The Manitoba legislature had now repealed the concession which was granted in 1896 insofar as it referred to the French language.

Sir Wilfrid said that he gave his fullest assent to the proposition that every child in Ontario should receive an English education. "When I ask that every child of my own race shall have an English education," he continued, "will you refuse him the right to have at the same time an education in the language of our mothers and our fathers?" It could do no harm to anybody to have a second education and a second language. It had been stated that there was no disposition in Ontario to curtail the teaching of French. Regulation 15 of the department of education provided that in a section where the French or German element predominated, teaching in French or German might be permitted. This regulation was still in force. Regulation 17, however, declared that in schools where French had on July 30, 1912, been hitherto a subject of study it might be taught in forms from one to four. That meant that the sphere in which French might be taught was restricted to schools in which it had been taught before 1912.

Laurier Supports Resolution.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier proclaimed at the outset that he rose to support the resolution and to discuss it calmly without passion or prejudice. He disclaimed any intention to deny the paramount power of the legislature of Ontario to pass final judgment on the question. "I rise," he said, "not for the purpose of giving advice to the people of Ontario but to plead with the people of Ontario on behalf of His Majesty's subjects of French origin in that province who complain that they have been by recent legislation deprived of rights which they have enjoyed since this country passed under the sovereignty of the British crown."

"SALADA"

The Tea That Never Disappoints

ROYAL COMMISSION TO PROBE IRISH REBELLION

London, May 10, 4.36 p. m.—Announcement was made today of the appointment of a royal commission to investigate the Irish rebellion. The members of the commission are Baron Hardinge, former viceroy of India; Justice Sir Montague Spearman and Sir Mackenzie Chalmers, former permanent under-secretary of state for the home department.

The commission will inquire into the causes of the recent outbreak and the conduct and degree of responsibility of civil and military authorities in that connection. Baron Hardinge will be chairman.

John Redmond, the Irish leader, expressed, in the House of Commons today, a desire for a wider investigation. Premier Asquith replied that if the area of inquiry were widened no tribunal could undertake the task. Consequently it was a question between holding an inquiry within limits, and having none at all.

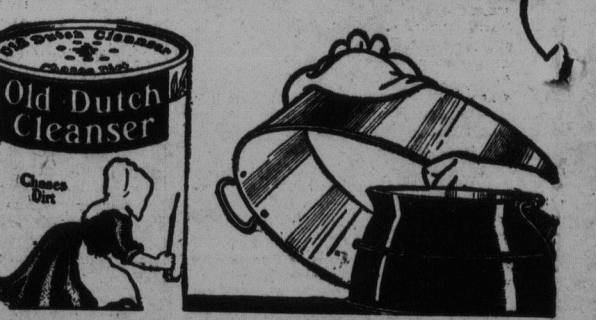
In no new schools could the French languages be introduced. Regulation 17 went further and enacted that English should be the language of instruction but that "where necessary," in form one French might be used as the language of communication and instruction with the approval of the chief inspector. Sir Wilfrid Laurier took exception to the view that a French speaking child could be taught English more rapidly by the use of English as the language of instruction than by the use of his own tongue. He cited the case of Sir Oliver Mowatt and of a number of educationalists who held the same opinion.

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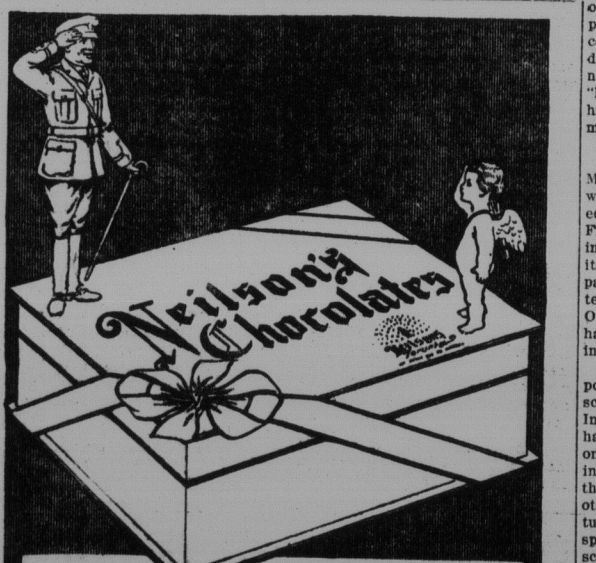
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