

BILINGUALISTS GET MEREL PROMISE OF CONSIDERATION

Sir James Whitney Tells Deputation Government Wants to Do What is Right But Delegates Were Not Distinctly Encouraged—Warm Passage of Words Between Cabinet Ministers and Visitors.

Usually the only immediate satisfaction a deputation to the government gets is that "the matter will be seriously considered." A similar promise was given by Sir James Whitney yesterday to a body of about 100 men from Ottawa and surroundings, which asked for the abolition of the bilingual regulations. After submitting a lengthy document stating grounds for their protest against the government's attitude toward English-French schools, and after discussing for over an hour their grievances with four cabinet ministers, principally Sir James Whitney, the deputation returned home, not exactly enthusiastic over the result of their mission.

At the conclusion of the debate the premier made the following reply to the delegates: "We will take into careful consideration all you have said. In this world we have got to give and take. Plain speaking is always best, and we have spoken plainly this morning. The government wants to do what is right. I wish you all a happy New Year."

Ground for Complaint. Sir James Whitney and Samuel Genest of Ottawa, who represented the French-Canadian element, and Dr. Freehand of the Irish element, also of Ottawa, were the principal participants in the discussion. The point of the argument put up by Dr. Freehand and Mr. Genest was that clause 17 of the regulations promulgated by the government was a violation of the principles of natural law and opposed to the policy which obtains everywhere in the British Empire. Clause 17 is the one which places a bar on the teaching of the French language as a language of instruction and communication in the bilingual schools, where formerly French was the chief language.

No Racial Schools. Sir James stated to the deputation that their request to the government was for racial schools in the province now, the result of religious feelings, he remarked, "is a positive statement of the people of this province, not that you ask for a triple system; yet that is what you ask for, since you are asking for racial schools." He stated that the function of the government was to educate, not to Anglicize. The regulations which were being proposed by the government were based upon religious and English-French schools. At this point the discussion waxed rather warm. Sir James, taking objection to such a statement, said that he would not treat such a statement with respect enough to deny it, said the premier, warmly. "If you are ignorant of the law, you cannot be supposed to understand it," Dr. Freehand objected to the premier's word "ignorant," to which the premier replied: "I said ignorant on this point. I do not mean that you are an ignorant man. I'm ignorant myself on some points, and it doesn't hurt my feelings to be told so, either."

"My feelings are not hurt, but as a member of this delegation I don't intend to be classed as ignorant," said Dr. Freehand. "On this point I have nothing to take back," the premier repeated. "I'm sorry to hear that," said Sir James, "but I will just say a word or two. This government is composed of mortals, and mortals sometimes make mistakes. But I will say now, and I have said it before, that this government, no matter how unjustly we are accused, will do our duty and give absolutely fair play to the French people in our midst. We will not desert despite the efforts of those who are trying to fan up something like racial religious wars. I am not alluding to anybody present."

The premier said that in 1911 an act was passed by the legislature to ensure that English should be the language of instruction. The regulation was that up to the end of term one, instruction should be in French, and thereafter the pupil could not understand English. "It was the intention of the act to provide that the language of instruction in the schools should be English except where pupils could only speak French. The action of the legislature expressed the feelings of the province that we have our separate public schools, and with these the province has always been content," said Sir James. The people of Ontario, he said, are a bilingual people, and our intention is to render the system as elastic as possible, continue the premier, in referring to the decision of the house that if a child could not speak or understand French, he or she should be taught French beyond the first grade if necessary.

Utterly Abashed. Here a delegate interjected the remark that an inspector under government regulations must be a pupil of a Protestant school. Sir James replied that he had never heard of any inspector because a Roman Catholic inspector went into a bilingual school, where there were Protestant scholars. Dr. Freehand then pointed out that one of the main objections the deputation was that, by the govern-

ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARE EQUAL LANGUAGES IN CANADA

So Declare Ottawa Bilingual Delegates to Ontario Government—Abolition of Schools a Violation of the B. N. A. Act and in Conflict With Former Orders to Effect That Boards of Trustees Had Control of Language to Be Taught—The Protest.

The crux of the protest raised by the Ottawa delegation at the parliament buildings regarding the abolition of bilingual schools by the Ontario Government was that clause 17 of the instructions issued some time ago was a violation of the B. N. A. Act. The delegation numbered 100, representing 107 English-French school sections, had submitted their argument, which appears below. They declare that clause 17 should be withdrawn, because it is in direct conflict with a former order of the government, which had not been cancelled, to the effect that the language to be taught in the schools was under the control of the board of trustees. They further maintained that the order constituted a violation of the British North America Act, which decrees the absolute equality of the English and French languages before the Canadian parliament and the British courts of justice.

Teach Mother Tongue. "I would be contrary to those sound and sane rules of pedagogy, which are universally and more especially in many parts of the British Empire, which proclaim as the noblest, surest and most direct way to the mind and the heart of the pupil the mother tongue. Dr. Mercant's report on the investigation of the English-French schools recently made by him, so affirms. At page 12 he writes: 'The best results are obtained when the medium of instruction is in the beginning the mother tongue.'"

Was Left to Trustees. "This is evidenced by the letter of the deputy minister of education, addressed on the 25th July, 1911, to Rev. Father Charles Jones, rector of the Roman Catholic Church in Arrmprior, in which the delegates refer to the letter carrying on its face the authority of the prime minister of Ontario. This letter has been widely circulated, and its contents are known to the various members of our boards and to the ratepayers generally throughout the province.

Unfriendly Attitudes. "(g) Be founded on the erroneous theory that for the sake of uniformity or homogeneity, one language only should be taught in the schools of this province; a theory which history has amply demonstrated to be without sound basis; (h) Seriously detract from the variety and picturesqueness of Canadian national life and deprive it of one of its best and surest sources of intellectual achievement; and (i) At the same time destroy the many other advantages, moral, social and scientific, resulting from the possession of two or more languages.

Special Around-the-World Cruise. Canadian Pacific—Empress of Russia and Asia. An unusual opportunity for an around-the-world cruise, all under the Canadian Pacific flag, with its coniferous standard of service, is offered with the advent of the new quadruple screw turbine engine steamships, "Empress of Russia" and "Empress of Asia."

Takes New Heart of Hope. We notice by the market report that you can buy either oat or wheat straw at the same price of rye straw, viz. \$3 per ton. And now that we can have this change in the bill of fare we feel more like pressing onward and bending all efforts to the end that we may be able to harper the lawn another season.

PILES CURED AT HOME by New Absorption Method. If you suffer from bleeding, itching, blind or protruding Piles, send me your address, and I will tell you how to cure yourself at home by the new absorption treatment; and will also send some of this home treatment free for trial, with references from your own locality if requested. Immediate relief and permanent cure assured. Send no money, but tell others of this offer. Write today to Mrs. M. Summers, Box 265, Windsor, Ont.

ENGLISH ACTOR HERE NEXT WEEK

Lewis Waller at Alexandra in "A Marriage of Convenience," a Strong Play.

HAWTREY AT PRINCESS "Don't Lie to Your Wife" at the Grand, New Sketch at Shea's and Good Burlesque.

The art of Mr. Lewis Waller, the English actor who appears at the Alexandra Theatre on Monday evening, is perhaps, too well known to need any preliminary comment, and it is perhaps unnecessary to say more about the play in which he will appear, "A Marriage of Convenience," other than that it has been conceded in England to be one of his most brilliant successes.

The piece was originally written for the French stage by Alexander Dumas, Sr., in 1808. Mr. Sydney Grundy adapted it to the English, which, no doubt, means that the comedy has been greatly improved since Mr. Grundy's reputation for epigrammatic lines and classic truisms is well known.

Unlike many American producers and managers, Mr. Waller has apparently not been entirely to himself for the success of the piece here, since he brings with him practically all the members of his English company, which includes one of London's most notable leading women, Miss Madge Titheradge, Mr. Maxwell Ryan, and others whose names are well known to the followers of the play. Since the reservation list for Monday evening numbers among the many of Toronto's most prominent persons, it is not unlikely that the distinguished actor will receive a very complimentary welcome to the city.

Mr. William Hawtreay and his English company are entirely to himself for the success of the piece here, since he brings with him practically all the members of his English company, which includes one of London's most notable leading women, Miss Madge Titheradge, Mr. Maxwell Ryan, and others whose names are well known to the followers of the play. Since the reservation list for Monday evening numbers among the many of Toronto's most prominent persons, it is not unlikely that the distinguished actor will receive a very complimentary welcome to the city.

George Keppy, a clever young actor, with William Hawtreay in "The Old Firm," coming to the Princess next week. He backs up all his debts so as to obtain the secret—another firm sends a young man who, instead of trying to secure it for his principals, gets employment from the old man with the object of stealing it. He is frustrated by falling in love with the daughter and taking a great fancy to the old man himself. The firms which write the play get no royalties as his servant girl destroys all letters.

"Queens of Paris." Burlesque, as it should be presented, will be the rule at the Gayety Theatre next week, when the much heralded production of Jacobs and Jewson's "Queens of Paris Company," will make their initial bow in Toronto. Among those prominently mentioned in the cast are those unsurpassed funmakers, Harry Koler, Al. K. Hall and Harry K. Morton, Clara Hendrix, Rose Reading, Ada Ayers, Sig and Edythe Franz, Pam Lawrence, Harry Evans, Harry Tyler, and others, with a chorus of thirty.

TRYING TO SMUGGLE CHINAMEN. NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Dec. 27.—(Special)—That four Chinamen are being held in hiding in Niagara Falls, Ont., by smugglers, awaiting an opportunity to get them across the border from Canada into the United States, is the belief of immigration officers at the north end of the city here. The Chinamen were first seen last Tuesday for Windsor under escort. An attempt to smuggle them into the United States at Detroit failed. The man who is escorting the Chinamen is said to hail from London, Ont. He is well known to the immigration officials as a smuggler.

Vote For The National Sanitarium Bylaw.

Consumption is responsible for over ten per cent. of the deaths in Toronto. It is not an hereditary disease, but an infectious disease. It is just as necessary to guard against the spread of Consumption by infection as it is to prevent an outbreak of smallpox through lack of proper precautions.

Every Consumptive is a menace to the whole community, unless care can be taken against the communication to others of the disease. It has been demonstrated that Consumption, taken in its earlier stages, is curable.

When the National Sanitarium Association began its work, 150 out of every 100,000 people in this Province died of Consumption; after sixteen years of work that number has been reduced to 50.

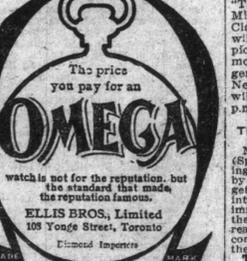
I ask you to vote for the bylaw granting \$200,000 to help the National Sanitarium Association to stamp out Consumption for two reasons: 1. It means an insurance for yourself and your loved ones against this dread disease. 2. By doing so you are helping those unfortunate who have become its prey.

Without this grant the "King Edward Memorial Fund" of one million dollars will not be completed. With this Fund set apart for this splendid work, Consumption should almost be unknown in twenty-five years.

W. K. McNaught. well known to the immigration officials as a smuggler. LONDON, Dec. 27.—(C.A.P.)—The Morning Post, advocating Bonar Law's proposal for a conference, regrets that his position has been entirely misrepresented, and claims that in 1907, Canada had been given the right of free trade by Laurier, there would have been no negotiations with the United States, and the cold shoulder on the part of Canadian Liberals to the naval program.

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