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## The Journal of Commerce

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### Special Articles

**Banks contribute 24 per cent. of Profits**  
By H. M. P. Eckardt.

**Economic Gains through war**  
By W. W. Swanson.

**Emigration and Land Settlement**  
By W. E. Dowding.

**The Flour Trade in China,**  
By J. W. Ross.

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorial:	Page
The Bi-Lingual Trouble .....	1
No Conference Nonsense .....	2
A Danger Point .....	2
Live Stock Loans .....	2
Uncle Sam's Shells .....	2
The World's Largest City .....	3
The New Transportation .....	3
Uniform Laws .....	3
Banks Contribute 24 per cent of Profits .....	3
Economic Gains Through War .....	4
The Flour Trade of China .....	5
Among the Companies .....	6-7
Mentioned in Dispatches .....	8
Bank of England Statement .....	9
Bank of France Return .....	9
Many Small Subscribers .....	9
January Bank Statement .....	9
Emigration and Land Settlement .....	10
Canadian Bank Clearings .....	10
A Banker's View .....	11
Spending and Saving .....	11
Wall Street Ownership .....	11
Quebec's Mineral Output .....	12
A Little Nonsense Now and Then .....	13
Insurance News and Notes .....	14-15
Montreal Stock Exchange .....	18-19
Commodity Markets .....	20-21
Grain Markets and Milling Notes .....	22
The Cotton Market .....	22
Boston Wool Situation .....	22
Shipping and Railway Notes .....	23
Opportunities for Manufacturers .....	24
Secretive Companies .....	24
Foreign Exchange Rates in New York .....	24
Railway Subsidies .....	24

## The Bi-Lingual Trouble

THE bi-lingual school question of Ottawa has broadened into a question which can no longer be confined to the capital city of Canada. School questions upon which Protestants and Roman Catholics hold different views are not uncommon in this country. The mixed character of our population as respects religious opinion inevitably produces occasional differences of that class. But the Ottawa school trouble is not of that nature. The difference that has arisen is not between Protestants and Roman Catholics, but between two sections of the Roman Catholic population, the French and the English-speaking; perhaps it will be more exact to say between the French and the Irish. It is not as respects the teaching of religion, but as respects the use of the French language, that the trouble has come. Unfortunately on both sides the question is now being discussed with a heat that is not likely to prove helpful to the finding of a settlement.

On the French side, it is often asserted that there is a conspiracy, to which the Ontario Government has become a party, to prevent the study of the French language in the schools of that Province attended by the children of French families. Appeals are made to the French-Canadian people, not only in Ontario, but also in other parts of Canada, to rally to the support of the French in Ottawa. The Legislative Assembly of Quebec has felt free to interfere so far as to pass a resolution calling upon the Ontario educational authorities to make concessions to the French people of Ottawa. Appeals are made to French-Canadian citizens in all parts of Canada to boycott business men who are not of French origin. French-Canadians are advised not to enlist, and not to contribute to the benevolent funds connected with the war, while this school question remains unsettled. The conflict is beginning to invade the field of Dominion affairs. Members of the Dominion Parliament, not Ontario members, are engaging in the platform fray. Petitions are being signed calling on the Dominion Government to disallow the Ontario legislation upon which is founded the regulation of which the French citizens of Ottawa complain. The field of controversy and strife is thus broadening daily.

On the other side, there are Ontario journals which hold that all the schools of the Province must be thoroughly English, and that the French language is entitled to no consideration. That language, it is argued, is recognized as an official language in the Province of Quebec, and in the conduct of business in the Dominion Parliament and in the Supreme Court of Canada, but, the contention is, it has no such recognition in the affairs of

the Province of Ontario, and should not be tolerated at all in the school arrangements. Ontario officials claim that in making the regulation limiting the amount of French teaching they are entirely within the law, and that the law must be enforced. Warm language from the pulpit and the press on the French side elicits warm rejoinders from the other side. And so the fight goes on, broadening every day into arenas which a little while ago had no part in it.

Questions of this character are not likely to be settled by people who, on one side or the other, insist upon standing strictly on what they believe to be their rights. The peace, order and good government of a country like Canada require on all sides a more conciliatory spirit. There may be times when any portion of a community which feels that it has certain rights will do well not to dwell on them, but rather to seek for a ground upon which, without the sacrificing of anything substantial, they can co-operate with another portion of the community which no less sincerely holds different views. The differences often are found to be more sentimental than substantial, and if the passion and prejudice of both parties be laid aside, what remains will leave little or no substantial room for dispute. The essential thing in such cases is that those who advocate their respective causes with so much heat shall stand aside, and that moderate and fair-minded men shall take up the question, with an earnest desire to find a ground upon which both parties can meet and work together for the common good.

It is this spirit that is now needed for the settlement of the Ottawa bi-lingual controversy. Both parties must really have the same object in view. The Ontario Government representatives say they wish to insure proper instruction in the English language in all the schools of the Province. No reasonable French-Canadian can doubt that this is a good purpose. English is the language of the great mass of the Canadian people. The child who does not learn that language is handicapped all through life, for in the greater part of Canada, without a proper knowledge of the language of the majority, one cannot participate in the business or social affairs of the time. Every sensible French-Canadian parent will therefore desire his children to learn English, so that they may not be placed at a disadvantage, as compared with the children of their English neighbors, in the competitions of life.

On the other hand, the French-Canadian has a natural pride in his origin, and in the language of his forefathers. Let us not condemn, but rather honor him for that. It would be well if more of our English-speaking people had acquired a knowledge of the French language. In a country having so large a part of its people of French origin there should be