

THE BILINGUAL QUESTION—*Con.*

*Clark, Hugh* (Bruce North)—3796.

I venture to say that if the minority have enjoyed these privileges, as quoted in the resolution, in a province such as Ontario, that province surely is not open to the censure of being intolerant and that this Parliament is not in a position to advise the legislature to exercise justice and tolerance, 3796. I do not believe there is one solitary government in the Dominion of Canada, outside of that of the province of Quebec, that would pass such legislation and regulations as the Government of Ontario have passed with respect to the teaching in bilingual schools, 3797. My hon. friend the member from Nicolet (Mr. Lamarche) has declared that this law is *ultra vires*. I think it is too late to do that now. He should have told it to the courts before they declared that it was not *ultra vires*. It was up to him to do it. With his superior judgment one would have thought he had foresight enough to offer his opinion to the court before judgment was delivered, 3798.

*Devlin, E. B.* (Wright)—3684.

I believe in the most absolute freedom and liberty for the people of all races and of all creeds in this country, 3685. The French Canadians of the province of Ontario claim that they have a grievance. They have, as I said in the beginning of my remarks, petitioned the Government; they have through their press and from the public platform told us that they have a grievance. They ask us as their representatives to bring that grievance before the Canadian Parliament, and to appeal to its judgment and its intelligence, 3687. There is something in their love of their language which may be incomprehensible to those who have not had to do with the French-Canadians, who have not lived among the French-Canadians, and who are not intimately acquainted with them, 3689-90.

*Doherty, Hon. C. J.* (Minister of Justice)—3802.

I want to point out the one question upon which it seems to me we are called upon to vote, and the one question upon which I desire to make it perfectly clear that I express an opinion by my vote. That is the question of the propriety of this House sitting in judgment upon the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, or of any other province, and proceeding, as has been pointed out so forcibly by my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to try that Legislative Assembly and find it guilty without it being heard or had opportunity of being heard of action that has been described in terms of varying degrees of strength, 3802. There is no case before this Parliament that this Parliament has, properly speaking, any right to pass upon or adjudicate upon. Nor is there any room for us to determine to what extent these principles have been applied, or have failed to be applied in a parti-

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cular province. But we are asked to take this step in the interest of a minority which is represented as having a grievance, 3804. We are told that a resolution of this House need only to be passed and that at once peace, unity, harmony will prevail. The legislature of one of the provinces of this Dominion attempted to bring about peace, unity, harmony, and the remedy of the grievance alleged, by telling the legislature of the province of Ontario what ought to be done in regard to this question. Any one who knows human nature would have known in advance that that was the last way in the world to bring about the desired result, 3805. There is no man in this House that has at heart more earnestly and more sincerely than myself—however mistaken I may be in my view as to the best method to serve them—the service of the best interests of the people of the province of Quebec, and because that is true, I stand here to register my vote in a moment against this resolution, 3806. If ever there was a travesty, if ever there was a means represented as being the proper means to an end, but which must necessarily defeat the end for which it is represented they are resorted to, it is the means that this House is asked to take to produce peace and harmony and to bring about the protection of the rights of a minority with regard to whom it is claimed that it is suffering under a serious grievance, 3807. Why do not they address these appeals to the legislative body that enacted these laws and is responsible for those regulations and can modify them if they are to be modified? 3808.

*Edwards, J. W.* (Frontenac)—3747.

May I be permitted to glance very briefly over history, as was done by others who have preceded me in this debate, 3747-8. I am going to place on Hansard some figures to show why, in my judgment, the province of Quebec should not presume to offer advice to the province of Ontario on educational matters, 3748-50. Foreign population of the West given, 3751. Regulation 17 referred to 3752-6. In 1896 the slogan of the Liberal party was "Hands off Manitoba." That was the battle cry of the right hon. gentleman and his party at that time. Should not that apply equally to the province of Ontario as to the province of Manitoba? Apparently the old battle cry still obtains so far as Manitoba is concerned, because in this resolution it is still "Hands off Manitoba," but "Hands on the province of Ontario", 3757. Let me ask you, Sir, and you men who represent French constituencies, if when the province of Ontario has shown this disposition, this spirit, if to-day the blood of her heroic sons is being poured out on the plains of Flanders in the defence of France and Belgium and England, in this great struggle for freedom and justice, if they are to-day fighting alongside of France in this great war of liberty, surely hon.