

BI-LINGUALISTS' STATEMENTS
FALSE AS GERMAN PLEDGES

Outrageous Steps Are Taken by the French in the Agitation

ACTING WITH UTTER UNSCRUPULOUSNESS

Whole Movement Based on Falsehood and Calumny, Says Mr. Hocken

Special to The Daily News.

Hamilton, Ont., March 9.—The propaganda of the Orange Order against bi-lingualism in the schools of Ontario was warmly endorsed, and its opponents strenuously scored, by ex-Mayor H. C. Hocken, of Toronto, at the public meeting in connection with the Council of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West, last night. Mr. Hocken said that when the Whitney Government, supported by a unanimous Legislature, adopted Regulation No. 17, it had caught the same vision as the Orangemen of the Province. "In Ontario," he pointed out, "it is not a religious issue. In Quebec it is. In the latter Province the crusade is based upon falsehood and misrepresentation. It is carried on by men who know that the claims made by the French are unconstitutional." To prove the bad faith of the French agitators, and to expose their mendacity, Mr. Hocken offered the admission by one of their outstanding leaders, Senator Belcourt, formally, concisely and definitely made, that in the Province of Ontario the French-Canadians have no "rights" with respect to their language.

"Am I going too far," he said, "when I say that Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Hon. Charles Marcell, Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, Senator Landry, and the whole tribe of French public men are acting with absolute and utter unscrupulousness in maintaining upon the platforms of this country that the French have 'incontestible rights' to the use of their language in this Province of Ontario."

False as German Pledges.

"These men know the terms of the British North America Act as thoroughly as Senator Belcourt. They have had occasion to study it. The particular clauses relating to education have been not merely discussed in Parliament and on the hustings, but have been interpreted by the Privy Council. There can be no two opinions upon the question. And yet, Cardinal Begin, Archbishops, Bishops and Priests have gone up and down the country making assertions that are as false as German pledges. They have not been ashamed to stand before large audiences and declare with vehemence that the people of their race are being persecuted worse than the Alsatians are persecuted by Germany."

"Let me review some of the outrageous steps taken by the French in this agitation, keeping in mind the legal opinion given on the subject by Senator Belcourt. I may pass over all the rant and rubbish piled up by Henri Bourassa and Armand Lavergne."

It is the conduct of the responsible public men of Quebec that calls for comment. So far as I have seen, not a single representative from that Province has had the courage to tell the people the truth. They have allowed the firebrands like Lavergne to mislead the masses, to organize riots against constituted authority, acting constitutionally; to stir up a feeling against Ontario so strong that one priest suggests a resort to arms to accomplish their purpose. While this is going on Hon. Charles Marcell, an ex-speaker of the House of Commons, and Senator Landry, Speaker of the Senate, continue to misstate the law and incite their followers to commit overt acts. Even Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, the French-Canadian leader in the Borden Cabinet, is not above misstating the case. Sir Wilfrid Laurier sits tight. So does Hon. R. Lemieux. Not one of them dare tell the truth to their misguided compatriots, even when Father Barrette hints at civil war.

Particularly Offensive.

"One of the most offensive and uncalled for of the attacks made upon Ontario in connection with the French language was that of Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, who in the French Legislature on January 11, 1915, condemned the Government of Ontario for its refusal to concede the demands made by the French. It is pertinent to ask what the people of Quebec would say if the Premier of Ontario introduced a resolution in the Legislature criticizing and condemning the school laws of the Province of Quebec."

"Then we have Cardinal Begin taking his stand with the bi-lingual extremists and demanding 'the use of French in the schools of Ontario as a fundamental and primordial right which no human power can violate with impunity.' Let me repeat that Cardinal Begin must be fully aware that the constitution of this country gives the French no right to the concession which he demands, because, as he said in the letter from which I quote, 'This is not a question involving a simple local interest, but it is of general interest throughout the whole Dominion.' Here we have the whole scope of the agitation indicated in a phrase. The purpose is frankly stated to give the French language an equal standing with the English throughout the whole Dominion. That is something to which the people of Canada will never consent."

"Then we have the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada,

Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, declaring in a St. Patrick's Day speech in the City of Quebec that both languages are official in this country. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick must have known that when he failed to qualify his language, his words would be taken to mean all that the French claim a sto their rights in the Province of Ontario.

"On March 27, Bishop Le Rocque of Sherbrooke, added fuel to the flames by issuing a pastoral in which he said: "Let it suffice for me to recall to you that our Ontario brethren are struggling to save from ruin their schools, their language and their faith. The enjoyment of these sacred things ought to be, it would seem, sheltered from any attack, since it is founded on natural right and on treaty right and on the constitutional right of our country." Is it conceivable that the Bishop of Sherbrooke is ignorant of the terms of the British North America Act. If he is, then he is guilty of a deliberate misrepresentation designed to create strife between the French and English of this country. The attitude of Cardinal Begin, Archbishop Bruchesi, and Bishop Le Rocque is identical with that of the entire ecclesiastical order in the Province of Quebec. As to the public men of Quebec, the same charge of untruthfulness lies against them.

Monstrous Legislation.

Nor is that all, but the Legislature of Quebec with but two dissenting voices has passed an act, authorizing the municipalities of Quebec to contribute up to 5 per cent. of their gross revenue to funds opened by corporations or persons for public subscriptions, for patriotic, national or school purposes within the Province of Quebec or elsewhere. A more monstrous piece of Legislation has never been enacted in Canada. Under that measure, the French bi-lingualists can raise a million dollars a year, to fight their sister Province, while it is living absolutely within the Constitution. It provides for the taxation of Protestants in Quebec to secure funds to present Protestants in some parts of Ontario giving their children an education in the English language. There is no form of language too severe to characterize such an unparalleled assault upon the liberties of the people of Ontario.

"I have shown, I believe," concluded Mr. Hocken, "that this whole movement is based upon falsehood and calumny, and that it menaces the future welfare of the Province of Ontario. What are we to do? Well, I venture to say that so far as the Orange Association is concerned our motto in this fight is that which was made historic by the Prentice Boys when they closed the Gates of Londonderry. No Surrender!"