

# BI-LINGUAL ISSUE IN MANITOBA DEVELOPS

*Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C. Has Been Retained to Conduct the  
Case for the French-Canadians—Other Nationalities  
Also Claiming Rights—Situation is Complicated*

From the Ottawa Correspondent of The Daily News

Ottawa, July 12.—Manitoba is rapidly developing a bi-lingual fight which promises to rival the situation in Ontario. It is complicated in Manitoba by the fact that the Ruthenians, Poles and other nationalities are claiming rights as well as the French.

The fight as far as the French is concerned is part of the general aggressive plan of the Nationalist and clerical agitators to claim equal rights with the English throughout the whole of Canada.

The first phase of the fight in Manitoba is to secure equal rights in the courts of that Province, and a test case is already being made which it is proposed to carry to the Privy Council. Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., the eminent jurist who was counsel for the Roman Catholics in the famous Manitoba School case has been retained by the French-Canadians.

The contention of the bi-lingualists is that the original constitution of Manitoba gave the French the

same rights in the courts of the Province as English—the clause it is claimed is the same as guarantees the French their right in Quebec. Later the Greenway Government passed an Act making English the sole language of the courts. This law was never questioned until recently after the Norris Government had abolished the Greenway-Laurier agreement guaranteeing the French special rights. The French are now claiming their old rights again.

Recently Mr. J. Dubuc, a young French-Canadian lawyer, a son of the late Chief Justice Dubuc, filed with the Manitoba courts a statement of claims in French. The officials under advice refused to accept the statement and a mandamus has been issued to compel the courts to accept the statement in French. It has been agreed to make it a test case, and Mr. Ewart has been engaged to carry the fight through the courts. It was expected it would be heard at once, but Mr. Ewart has received word that the case will not come before the courts until September.