

AS TO SLAV LOYALTY.

There was no actual need for the public professions of loyalty made yesterday in Winnipeg by Polish and Ruthenian citizens, though perhaps the demonstration was desirable in view of certain circumstances. There has never at any time been any question as to the loyalty of the majority of the Slav settlers of Manitoba or of Canada. They will be faithful sons of their adopted country.

What has been in question has been the mischievous anti-Canadian propaganda carried on amongst the Poles and Ruthenians of Manitoba by certain nationalist and clerical leaders. There is, it is true, no possibility of this agitation proving permanently and finally successful. Yet, on the other hand, if it is persisted in, and particularly if it is treasonably abetted by English-speaking Canadians for political advantage, it is potentially strong enough to prejudice the future of Manitoba for more than a generation.

No word of disparagement has ever been uttered by The Free Press of the Polish, Ruthenian or Russian citizens of this Province. Canada and Manitoba have profited greatly by their coming to this country. They have, as a class, performed the hard spade work of the nation patiently and well, and they are now claiming a greater share of our national cultural life. The Free Press has always extended its heartiest welcome to the Slav peoples in this larger participation of Canada's future.

The Free Press has always had faith, and has it still, that the vast majority of the Poles and Ruthenians themselves will duly recognise the futility of re-planting upon Canadian soil the fratricidal antipathies of the old world.