

# The Right Ring

"Canada for Canadians" is a splendid motto. For the sake of getting a few thousand immigrants from this or that country, Canada cannot afford to advertise to the world even a suspicion that she has territory to rent, and that this or that alien flag may be recognized or flaunted within her borders.

Long have we all praised the facility with which the United States has assimilated Europeans, but with all her perfection and originality in nation-building, we see today the evils of hyphenization. We are young; we have been tumbling headlong into mistakes, by the segregation of foreign elements into large colonies, remote from strong Canadianizing influences; by the recognition of foreign tongues in our State schools; by the disregard of the value of the franchise; and again by permitting scoundrelly politicians to corrupt and make many of these new settlers worse from every standpoint than they were when they came among us. And, again, the breed of politician tolerated for so long, has bred in our foreign voters a contempt, or disregard at least, for institutions that should have commanded the respect of citizens in the making from the day they landed on our shores.

In March last the Canadian Club passed the following resolution:

'In view of the great problem, even under normal conditions, of imbuing the many non-English-speaking nationalities of Western Canada with Canadian ideals, this executive of the Winnipeg Canadian Club regrets that at a time like the present, when this difficult problem is aggravated and accentuated, German newspapers, such as

'West-Canada' and 'Der Nordwesten' (in Winnipeg), 'Der Courier' (in Regina), and 'Der Alberta Herald' (Edmonton), should publish in their columns editorials and other matter pronouncedly pro-German and designed to convey the impression to our German population that Germany and her allies are proving victorious.

"And this executive is strongly of the opinion that the Dominion Government should take immediate steps to suspend said publications pending satisfactory and sufficient guarantees being given that they will refrain from deliberately giving a pro-German color and appearance in the presentation of telegraphic or other war news, or from printing pro-German editorial matter.

"And this executive would further suggest that other Canadian publications printed in the language of those nations with whom the British Empire is at war should be closely supervised by an official of the Dominion Government, with a view to the prevention of the publication of articles similar to those complained of in the foregoing."

The authorities took cognizance of the resolutions of the Canadian Club, and there has been a decided change in the tone of the foreign-language press. National self-respect made action absolutely necessary, though the fact is that if prominent Canadian politicians had not been interested in many of these journals, their founders, in fact, in some instances—and where does the "organ" money come from?—the government would have been alive, and not dead, as to what was transpiring.

Col. C. W. Rowley, an ex-president of the Canadian Club, in moving the adoption of the annual report a few days ago, and referring specially to the executive committee's resolution quoted above, said:

In this connection I would draw your attention to the fact that there are many papers now being published in the German and Ruthenian languages. In the opinion of many it is time the Federal authorities took this matter in hand and prohibited the circulation of any papers in the language of enemy countries, and even go to the extent of absolutely forbidding anything but English (with, possibly, occasional French, as they have some slight claim) publications.

This question brings up the fact that foreign languages are being taught in our schools and bi-lingual schools, and have been made one of the many political footballs; although, in the opinion of many, this is not a political or religious question at all, but a NATIONAL one, and one that should be discussed from a national point of view ONLY.

We do not wish similar conditions in Canada as exist in the Balkan States. Those of us who have studied history, and are men of observation, are firmly convinced that the people who defend their country in time of war, and fight its battles, are the people who should govern and dictate how that country should be ruled in times of peace. It is the English-speaking people who are mainly fighting their country's battles at the present time.

If one can believe the papers in regard to what the Germans are doing in Belgium and Alsace-Lorraine, they issued instructions some time ago that all public and official affairs and papers should be discussed and printed in German, and that German was to be the one and only language. All foreigners coming to Canada come for the purpose of bettering their condition, and never doubt when they start out that they will have to speak the language of the country, and are very much surprised to find conditions as they are, with the result that they become arrogant and self-assertive. Anyone coming to the North American continent who is unable to speak and write the English language and understand it thoroughly, is not anything like as good a citizen as he otherwise would be, from any point of view, and is prevented from accepting a thousand and one positions that would otherwise be open to him. The Government should take hold of this question forcibly and resolutely and handle it without gloves and if they would make it a NATIONAL question they would have the unanimous support of all right-thinking people throughout this province and the whole Dominion.

Col. Rowley spoke plainly on this question over a year ago, when he called upon the late government to Canadianize all the schools of Manitoba. His statements the other day before the Canadian Club met with enthusiastic approval.

The evils of compromise in national ideals are in evidence in many sections of this province. The Norris Government is not only charged, but pledged, to Canadianize the schools of Manitoba. The first step is along lines of instruction in the English language in all the schools, public or private.

Bi-lingualism must go.