

MR. BOURASSA'S CASE.

"No public man in Canada" said Mr. Bourassa in his recent speech in Montreal "can pretend that Canada is obliged to help Britain in this war. . . . We have not to keep together with our blood the Empire which Britain has not the force or the ability to keep herself." A speech the whole of which was of that character, addressed to a big public meeting, would get any English-speaking man into jail in either Canada, Australia or Britain. In Germany, a corresponding speech about Germany would get the speaker shot. The Hamilton Herald, usually an easy-tempered and soft-spoken newspaper, remarks that some days previously a Hamilton man who tried to dissuade others from volunteering was sentenced to a term of imprisonment; and the Herald wonders why Bourassa escapes. It says:—

"Bourassa is a public enemy who ought not to be at large. If he is crazy he ought to be confined in an asylum. If he is sane, he ought to be jailed or put in an internment camp with other suspicious characters."

Well, we think we are obliged to suspect that the reason why Bourassa is not put in jail is that the authorities wish to avoid giving any appearance of color to the charge that somebody or other wants to persecute French-Canadians. As already said, if the gentleman were English-speaking, he would get into quod fast enough, and deserve to.