

## RACIAL WAR IMMINENT.

The bi-lingual school question has reached a crucial point. — Three distinct movements were reported from three distinct sources in the press of Thursday. The first was the denunciation by Sir Joseph Pope of the agitation against the use of French in the schools, or against the continuance of the bi-lingual schools. His protest rests upon two grounds, namely, (1) that the French-Canadians have rights which are being questioned or taken away from them, and (2) that this a most unfortunate time in which to create political cleavages in the body politic. His language is strong, too strong perhaps as the expression of a civil servant, though one of the first rank and with an experience and training which certainly fit him to speak with the greatest emphasis.

In Manitoba, in the second place, the repeal of the legislation which recognized and provided for bi-lingual schools has caused a bitter controversy. Nothing has occurred since 1896 which has stirred the races more than the school question, and all the foreigners are up in arms about it. The French-Canadians lead as perhaps the most fiery and forceful of them all, and they are asserting their opinions in the most positive way. Several Liberal members, representing constituencies in which the foreigners are the majority, have bolted from the party. Yet the Government remains firm and the Minister of Education says the repeal of certain Acts is necessary because the situation under them has become intolerable. The demand for an appeal to Ottawa reminds one of what happened in 1896, when a remedial legislative Government went under. Its acts will surely not be repeated.

Finally the Legislature of Quebec has passed an Act, somewhat hurriedly and without being referred to a committee, which permits councils and school commissions to vote various sums of money for patriotic and educational purposes; and it is assumed that this Act enables the French-Canadians to contribute to funds with which to campaign against the people of Ontario respecting bi-lingual schools. The Government of Quebec favors the Act because of its patriotic aims, and those who interpret that it is an instrument in the hands of bi-lingualists may be mistaken in their views.

Altogether the outlook on the school question is very unsatisfactory. It suggests a calmness on the part of all the people, and a calmness which it is hard to secure in these times of stress and serious misunderstanding.