

BANISH THE GERMAN.

There is some point in the contention that the study of French in the schools or the use or exaltation of it anywhere ought not to be objected to so much as the study of German. French is the language of the people of Quebec, and some districts in Ontario, and it should be acquired for commercial and social purposes with as much favor as it is in England. Any one who does business in Quebec is at a disadvantage when unable to read or speak the French language. All this can be said without admitting the extraordinary claims which are made in its behalf by Armand Lavergne.

Mr. Lavergne stormed a couple of times in the legislature of Quebec over the manner in which his mother-tongue was treated in Ontario. No one answered him. No one in a house, all of whose members excepting eight are French-Canadians, saw the wisdom of disputing his contentions. He spouted verbal fire, as it were, and when he tired of the exercise he sat down. Now he is upon a new tact. In his itinerary in Quebec he is preaching a boycott against Ontario and its products, and, if he has his way, or if the people follow him to any extent, the English of Ontario and the French of Quebec will be clawing at each other every time they meet.

This aside why should Ontario be any more partial to the German language than to the French? German has no right to an official or any other kind of recognition. It is not the language of the people in their business dealings. There is nothing incumbent upon our education department to have it taught in the schools. It is simply part of that higher education which our secondary schools and colleges supply. It is part of the culture which educated people value, though no part of the culture which in this war represents the abominations of the German people. Why should institutes and colleges give it a high place in their curricula? That is the question of the hour.