

Bourassa Game Causes Alarm

L'Evenement of Quebec is a Conservative newspaper with a creditable history and excellent traditions. The editorial article which follows expresses the distress of the better element of the French community over the mad folly of Bourassa.

"There is developing at this time on the French-Canadian question a dangerous misunderstanding which might easily become disastrous unless all our compatriots of authority and prestige unite their efforts to dissipate it as soon as possible.

"Information which we have just received from one of our best friends in Europe leads us to believe that in certain Italian circles they are wondering if the movement amongst us for the conservation of the French language may not be compared with the anti-British agitation which ended in Ireland in the bloody revolution of Dublin. Some enemies of our language, says our correspondent, who is generally well-informed; labor to explain the courageous defence of our mother tongue by our brothers of Ontario as a seditious movement aimed at the Sovereign authority of the British Crown. This correspondent adds that the attitude of Mr. Bourassa towards England in the present conflict does an enormous wrong, in the same circles, to the French-Canadian cause, and that the sympathy of a part of the French-Canadian clergy towards the brilliant "paradoxes" of the Nationalist leader—or as he calls them "the risky theses of Mr. Bourassa" may become a serious obstacle in the way of our most legitimate vindication.

Striking Examples.

"We are too far from these circles where it appears these hostile currents run to judge exactly the danger to us from the campaign conducted since the beginning of the war by Mr. Bourassa. But we are forced to recognize that this campaign, so impolitic and so unfortunate, is of the sort to mislead men not fully familiar with our true viewpoint. It may occasion a dangerous misunderstanding which might ruin the just cause which we desire to see triumph.

"Take, for example, the open letter which the editor of Le Devoir wrote on June 9th last to M. Maurice Hodent, of Paris. How can strangers avoid having some doubts of the sincerity of our loyalty if their only information comes from the falsehoods uttered in this unhappy epistle? When he writes that 'England continues to impose upon Ireland her tyrannical domination and drowns in blood, a rising fully as legitimate as the resistance of the Alsaciens, Poles and Danes to Prussian domination' how can strangers, believing that Mr. Bourassa faithfully interprets French-Canadian feeling, regard us as being really opposed to all seditious movements against England?

Canada Independent.

"When Mr. Bourassa writes, still in his open letter to M. Hodent, an enormity like this: 'England can no more cede Canada to Germany than she can cede Belgium or a piece of French territory, because Canada is the possession of the Canadian people' how in good truth, can those in Italy who read affirmations so radically false avoid thinking that we are not as faithful to the British Crown as we pretend to be? When these strangers read in this same letter of Mr. Bourassa, this affirmation, absolutely stupefying in its falsity, that the autonomous countries of the British Empire are of right true independent States, how will be possible for them not to suspect the existence in the very bosom of our people of a current of demagogic and separatist ideas? And might not those in Italy who have authority over us as a Catholic people regard with distaste if not arrest a movement for national vindication conducted by a man who does not fear to express in Europe as among his own people ideas so subversive?

"Doubtless all those at home or abroad who are perfectly informed on French-Canadian opinion, know well that our people are unanimously loyal to the British Crown, that we are even now sealing this unalterable loyalty with the blood of our sons on the battlefields of Europe, that our French-Canadian bishops have declared in a collective letter that it is right that we should offer to England in this conflict our aid in men and money, that the two great political parties of Canada, the leader of one being a French-Canadian, are in perfect accord as to the need of aiding England with all the force at our country's command.

Helping Germany.

"But it is not less true that the anti-British falsehoods of Mr. Bourassa published in profusion by that newspaper, by pamphlet and by lectures, and which are found distributed even in Belgium by the German military authority, as our European correspondent tells us, are of a nature to do incalculable wrong to the French-Canadian cause in the circles above-mentioned, where they contribute, against the intention of Mr. Bourassa himself, to give us the appearance of rebels which we are not, and to cast damaging discredit on all our just and legitimate demands. All French-Canadians who have prestige and authority abroad should apply themselves to disseminate in all European circles to which they have access the dangerous misunderstanding which is being created there to our great detriment by the adventurous theses of Mr. Bourassa."