

Canadianizing Children Of Foreign Parentage

Manitoba has been doing great national foundation work under the able direction of Hon. Dr. Thornton, Minister of Education, in the direction of making efficient, effective and loyal English-speaking citizens of the thousands of children of foreign parentage, with whose proper upbringing the State has a responsibility which had hitherto been neglected.

In a word, where a few months ago foreign children were grouped in practically separate foreign-language schools, under teachers with ideals not in accord with Canadianism, we have today Canadianized schools, with the Canadian spirit inside as well as the Canadian flag outside.

A representative of The Tribune was privileged not long ago to visit a dozen of these schools in our foreign settlements. He covered a large area in the country east of Winnipeg as far as the Brokenhead region, and his coming was unknown to officials or teachers or pupils. He just dropped in to find the schoolmasters or schoolmistresses and scholars engaged in their daily routine task. In a school, here and there, were found a few children of English-speaking parentage, but the great majority were of Slav, Scandinavian and Teuton extraction—and without exception, they all spoke and read the English language and sang the English songs.

Nearly all of the teachers hailed Canada as their motherland. Their first love, their perspective, their ideal, is Canada and their regard is for Canadian institutions founded upon British justice and practice. The minds of the young, impressionable, receptive, and responsive are daily filled with the good views of Canada, a land of opportunity, of equality, of the square deal.

And everywhere there was evidence of all the children rising to the occasion and seizing the glorious chance of becoming part and parcel of Canada, and finally welded into the very life and being of this new nation.

Is it any wonder that The Tribune representative came home filled with admiration for those teachers, and with respect for the parents who are now encouraging their children in the acquirement of knowledge which must make the rising generations useful participants in the political and social life of the country, in a wholesome, unified national sense.

All credit to Dr. Thornton, a minister who came upon the scene as an educational missionary, and Mr. Ira Stratton, the provincial official school trustee, who is a settler and arranger of the varied troubles which arise from time to time, and whose grasp of the foreign settlement educational work and the extension thereof is of such inestimable value to the province and the nation.

And has all this good work been accomplished through the enforcement of LAW? Law is a good thing and is necessary, but

a little moral suasion, reasonably and intelligently applied, is worth far more and is a thousand times more permanently effective than all the laws—compulsory, or otherwise. The educational laws, like other laws, are useful only in so far as the men behind the laws are in earnest, and just and reasonable. There was chaos when Dr. Thornton came into office. Little Polands were growing up all over the province. Reactionary foreign leaders were everywhere preaching the doctrines of separation, exclusiveness and the retention of European customs and ideals. This part of Manitoba was destined to be the home of Polanders, under Polish educational rule, and that portion would have the technical perfection and industry characteristic of the Teuton. "Nothing English or Canadian about us. Let us perpetuate our language. We are in the majority in this particular district. Let us dominate." Under former conditions English settlers felt, indeed, as though they were living in a foreign country. Today the little Canadian school house is evidence that the State is alive and on the job. It is the radiant centre of Canadian thought.

And those missionaries—the teachers! They are a noble band of men and women. Publications there are exclusively devoted to a record of heroism and deeds of Canadians who engage in educational work in foreign lands. These foreign settlement teachers have gone in among peoples of a foreign tongue, and have established and built up a real Canadian centre—the school house.

Men may cavil over their party politics and criticize governments—very justly at times—but every true-blooded Canadian has only to see the work of Manitoba's Department of Education in the foreign settlements to appreciate the judgment, the ability, the perseverance and the hard work of Dr. Thornton and his able associates. It is, indeed, monumental work. In the rush for the development of wealth—money—we had almost forgotten to develop citizenship, real patriotism, and all those higher things which make a nation internally and externally strong and a moral power in the world.

Manitoba has been doing her bit for Canadian nationalism of the right sort. How much it has cost the province we do not know, but the expenditures on those clean, comfortable, plain school houses, and the cosy little residences for the teacher-missionaries has been money well expended, and will be cheerfully paid when the debentures mature, by the settlers directly benefited.

Give us plenty of public school houses, well patronized as they are today, able, conscientious teachers, and clear-headed leaders of the Thornton type and democracy in Canada has nothing to fear.

Having made a good start at making Canada a real Canada, let us push ahead; and the "foreign population" problem will be settled in the interests of the "foreigners," and all other classes of Canadians, native and imported.

Rumania on August 25, taking the Rumanians entirely by surprise, while the Germans and Austrians, thoroughly prepared for the declaration of war on the 27th, had their armies ready to hurl themselves upon Rumania before any reinforcements could reach Salonica. For all this General Sarrail will now have to answer in Paris before some, before a court-martial according to some, before a court martial according to others. The case against him is rendered additionally black by his long standing intimate association with Caillaux and Malvy, the former of whom is now known to have been intriguing with the Kaiser's agents ever since the beginning of the war, for a separate peace by France with Germany, and for an eventual alliance of France with the Kaiser against Great Britain, Russia, and, if necessary, against the United States, a country for which he has always entertained sentiments of the most undisguised ill will. As for Great Britain, he positively execrates her.

It is even declared that Caillaux and Louis Malvy almost succeeded in bringing Sarrail back to France and investing him with the rank of a marshal of France, preparatory to imposing him upon the Allies as commander-in-chief of all the Entente forces in France.

The world has wondered at the events which happened in connection with Rumania. The explanation may be found in the conduct of Caillaux and his pals.

Washington dispatches yesterday tend to confirm the worst suspicions regarding Caillaux. These place him in the light of an arch-traitor.

Winnipeg District One of Best For Farmers

(By R. Johnston, Lindsay Building)

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The Winnipeg district, in the last few years, has been attracting a good deal of attention from a large number of farmers from both sides of the International line.

The farmer from the U. S. A. usually wants good strong land, handy to good markets; land that will stand cropping; this he finds close to the city, at very reasonable prices. He also looks for the best market for his grain, and he finds in Winnipeg the largest grain market on this continent, and also the largest flour milling district in the British Empire. Farming from this time on is going to make great strides. The gas tractor has already made it possible to handle large tracts of land as well as small pieces, with a great reduction in the cost of production. With the small gas tractor to pull 3 14-inch plows, that is a power equal to 10 horses, making 3-horse to each plow, and one to spare. An acre per hour can be turned over by this machine at a present cost of less than 55 cents per acre for fuel; but this cost will be reduced after the war, when things get cheaper.

Now, when food is so much needed, there is a great chance to put all this fertile land near the city of Winnipeg into