

"A HATEFUL SENTENCE."

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—The editorial of today's Free Press, headed "The Legislature and Bilingualism," compels me to say a word in connection with one hateful sentence of yours in the said editorial.

I do not want to discuss the sentence: "there may be the right of a minority which deems itself aggrieved to appeal to the Dominion government for remedial legislation—but this can be disregarded."

For instance. The Editor of the Free Press or the people behind him would emigrate to China. Of course, it would be their duty to learn the Chinese language as soon as possible, but would their English heart and soul remain quiet and satisfied and without any remorse, if their children would talk only: ching, chang, chong?

I do not want to discuss the sentence: "The Free Press has no difficulty in reaching the opinion that it is not desirable—that a non-English language . . . should be entitled to this status by law." I doubt very much, whether the Free Press has one Polish-speaking member on its staff, who is able to "collect" the opinion of the thirty-five thousand Poles living in Manitoba.

I do not want to discuss the sentence: "The prophecy of parochial schools is largely a piece of stage play." Are there no parochial schools at present?

I do not want to discuss the sentence: "Prolonged resistance from the Poles is highly doubtful." Mr. Editor, study the Polish history, especially that of the last century, and you will easily find out, how persistent the Poles are in preserving and guarding their mother

tongue, especially when it is persecuted.

But here is the sentence which I call "hateful": "We can say with perfect propriety to . . . the Pole that if he is dissatisfied with our education laws he can pack his trunk and go back to his happy home in war-torn Europe."

I call this a "hateful" sentence. The reader will find out: "Hateful"—to whom?—to the British Empire, or to the Polish Canadian after the following argument:

There is no rightly and justly thinking citizen or government official in Canada, who could venture to say, that the Polish people living in Canada has ever been a hindrance for the Canadian government; in the contrary, during the last twenty years, we always fulfilled our duties as Canadian citizens and helped in many a way to the progress of the Dominion, and especially of this province.

It is well known, that many of our boys have enlisted during the present war in the British army—there is even a great desire of forming a Polish-Canadian battalion — and every Pole feels it is his holy duty to defend Canada with arms in hand, if (what God forbid) the Teutonic hordes would menace our adopted fatherland, even at a moment when our beloved Poland needs every man and every drop of Polish blood for her own defense.

Well known is the bravery of the Polish soldier, the faithfulness of the Polish man, the superhuman strength and patience of the people after the partition of Poland, especially under the German government.

But even the proud and "fearless" Prussian now understands, that his everlasting anti-Polish politics are at an end in the present critical moment.

Trying to make up her former faults, even Germany now gives favorable promises to her Polish subjects regarding the now prohibited teaching of the Polish language, in order to gain the favor and heart of the Polish soldier.

In irritating and provoking the Polish-Canadian citizens in a more or less critical moment even for Great Britain, by stimulating an unjust treatment, the Editor of the Free Press, or the people behind him seem to show less brains and intelligence than the Teutons; or is their behaviour and tactics, headed "Loyalty," an undermining of the foundations of the British Empire?

(REV.) W. M. GROCHOWSKI.

Winnipeg, Jan. 24, 1916.