

## MR. COLDWELL'S AMAZING SPEECH.

In the Roblin Government's local Ruthenian organ, "Canada," appears the report of an amazing speech delivered recently in Brandon by Hon. George R. Colivell. According to the report, the gathering was composed of Ruthenian electors, called together by Conservative organizer Theo Stefanik. Mr. Coldwell, according to "Canada," said:

"I travelled in your (Ruthenian) settlements, and have found that you are making progress in Canada, and are taking advantage of all the privileges our constitution gives to all the citizens of this country.

"I am particularly glad to see that you are anxious to educate yourselves, and that your teachers are ardently working for the education of your children.

"I understand that teachers who do not know your language cannot successfully teach in your schools, and I, as the head of the department of education, am doing my utmost to see that you get good teachers of your own nationality. I have to admit, that my endeavors are crowned with success.

"The Brandon Training school, which has the same programme as the training schools for English teachers, is showing splendid results, and so far as the knowledge of the English language is concerned, I am assured by the principal of the normal course, Mr. Hales, the students of your Brandon Training school are on par with the English students.

"With great pleasure I have appointed this year as a teacher of the Ruthenian language and history Mr. Karmansky, and I am sure that the students will greatly benefit from this teacher's lessons, who is working with self-sacrifice. The 'noise-makers' from the Opposition attacked Mr. Karmansky, in Parliament, accusing him of supposed inflammatory actions, and demanded his removal.

"I was glad to have defended Mr. Karmansky, whose sacrifices for the school I appreciate, and would like to see Canada getting more men of his type.

"I am sure that you appreciate my good intentions to serve the Ruthenians, and will help me to be elected during the coming elections. I assure you that I will work for you the same in the future as I have done in the past."

It is surprising to have the Minister of Education of his Province say publicly that teachers who do not know the Polish or Ruthenian language cannot teach successfully in the public schools of the Manitoba Slav districts. What, then, is the meaning of the pronouncement in the last report of the Department of Education that "a special type of teacher, inspired with the missionary spirit in very abundant measure, is required for service in the schools of certain non-English portions of the population?" Does this pronouncement mean nothing, and is nothing going to be done to give effect to it?

But that is the least surprising aspect of the matter. The fact is that the Winnipeg Polish Training school and the Brandon Ruthenian Training school, established six or seven years ago by the Roblin Government to provide Polish and Ruthenian bilingual teachers, have been and are today utterly unable to supply the number of teachers needed for the Slav schools of the Province. Not even by accepting young men who cannot speak a word of English, not even by cramming five years' tuition into three years, and not even by lowering the standard of the Provincial teachers' examination have these training schools been able to turn out sufficient teachers.

All told, these two training schools have turned out during the six or seven years of their existence 92 Slav bilingual teachers. At the present time certainly not more than seventy of these teachers are still teaching in Manitoba. But there are in Manitoba today some 120 Polish and Ruthenian bilingual schools. Thus, taking into consideration only the Slav schools actually established, and leaving out of consideration altogether the large number of Slav children for whom no schools have been provided, the two training schools are fifty teachers short of actual requirement.

It is true that here and there, for exceptional reasons, English-speaking teachers have been engaged for Slav bilingual schools, and one or two Slav teachers who have graduated from the public schools of the Province are also teaching. But the total of these two classes can probably be counted on the fingers of both hands. At any given time many of the Slav schools are closed for lack of teachers.

The position is this. The Slav communities of the Province have been and are unable to supply enough Polish and Ruthenian teachers to staff the Slav schools of the Province. But, in spite of this most obvious fact, a

certain element amongst the Slav population clamors for teachers exclusively Slav, whether properly qualified or not, and opposes under all circumstances the employment of English-speaking teachers in the Slav settlements. The Hon. George R. Coldwell directly and deliberately encourages this attitude.

Mr. Coldwell's unblushing praise of Professor Karmansky is staggering. The Free Press has already given considerable publicity to the vagaries of this protege of Mr. Coldwell. Karmansky came to Canada last summer, and within a few weeks of his arrival was given a job by the Roblin Government as teacher in the Brandon Ruthenian Training school. About the same time appeared in Winnipeg a new Roblin Ruthenian organ, called "Canada." Almost immediately after obtaining a footing on the Provincial pay-roll, Karmansky began to contribute political campaign articles to "Canada," and he has kept it up down to the present.

These Karmansky articles have all been written for the purpose of rounding up the Ruthenian voters into the Roblin camp. Their burden has been an attack, framed in coarse and vulgar language, upon the Liberals. The latter were branded as the enemies of the Ruthenians, while, on the other hand, the Roblin Government was falsely eulogized as the friend of the Ruthenians.

In particular, the Roblin Government has been represented as not insisting upon the proper qualification of teachers and the efficient teaching of the English language in the Slav schools. The Liberals have been falsely represented as wishing to abolish the Slav tongue from the schools and, in Karmansky's choicest phrase, as worse than the Russian Black Hundred.

In his articles, Karmansky has openly threatened racial and bloody war if the Slav schools are not carried on according to his ideas. Karmansky has foully insulted the English-speaking male teachers, and has written in the grossest and most abusive terms of everybody and everything Canadian. His articles have been destructive and subversive of Canadian citizenship and Canadian nationality. They have spoken of "the Canadian Ukraine," and have stated bluntly that the destiny of the Slav population of Canada was to found "an independent nation" on Canadian soil.

Yet this is the man of whom the Hon. George R. Coldwell, Minister of Education, says: "With great pleasure I have appointed this year as teacher of the Ruthenian language and history Mr. Karmansky, and I am sure that the students will benefit greatly from his lessons."