

MR. BOURASSA NOT IN CANADIAN CLUB

He Thinks it is Not "Canadian"
in Fact as Well as in
Name

DEFENCE OF HIS VIEWS

Says They Are Considered Legitimate and Proper in London

The Editor of Le Devoir has sent the following letter:

Montreal, September 24th, 1914
Frank-D. Adams, Esq., D. Sc., D.C.
L., President of the Canadian Club
of Montreal,
243, Mountain Street,
City.

Sir,

This evening's papers apprise me of the fuss created in the Canadian Club by the motion of a certain Mr. Lansing Lewis, to have me expelled from the club on account of my supposed attitude on the war.

Without discussing the fact or the a-propos of that gentleman's move, in the presence of distinguished foreign guests, I simply wish to remind you that the executive of the club need not lose time in pondering over my case. For the reason I gave in writing to your honorary secretary, on the 5th of April last, I have not yet accepted a membership in the club, nor have I paid any fee. That reason was and is still that so long as the executive of your club do not decide to make it Canadian in fact as well as in name, by a more equitable use of the two official languages of this country, I will not form part of it.

As to my views on the war and the part Canada should take in it, I need not deign to explain or apologise. My statements are there to be appreciated by all who can read the language in which they have been expressed—a language as rarely spoken and understood in English Canada as it is universally understood and spoken in all civilized countries: the same language in which the distinguished representative of the Belgian Government addressed your club at noon, but which one full half of your members were unable to understand.

To all fair-minded and intelligent readers there cannot remain any doubt as to my sympathy for the cause of France, Belgium and England, and my expressed conviction that Canada ought to help them "with all her might, and all the means of action at her disposal." This I wrote more than once in the Devoir.

Thanks to the deplorable ignorance, in matters of languages, of most English-speaking Canadians,

certain "loyal" journalists in Montreal and throughout Canada, who have not the excuse of not knowing what I have written, have carried on a systematic campaign of misquotations and slanders to prove that I am the "enemy" of the allied nations. In Great Britain and in every civilized country, such process would call for the utter contempt and reprobation of all right thinking people.

As to my views on the constitutional relations between Canada and Great Britain, and the obligations deriving therefrom in matters of military and naval armaments, I have uttered them in London, before several public audiences, as well as in many private interviews with representative men of all shades of opinion, in a language still plainer than ever I used here. By all and everyone my views were considered as perfectly legitimate and proper and by many as utterly irrefutable in right and in fact. Here they are denounced to public indignation and considered as deserving no lighter punishment than the jail or the gallows.

The more I go and travel in this world, the more I get convinced that I am altogether too British for this Prussian-like community of ours.

Yours truly,
Henry Bourassa.