

FEARFUL THREAT AGAINST ENGLISH

Mederic Will Fight Them and
They Will Pay for Years
and Years

GETS MENACING LETTER

Mountain Auto Trip Was to
Prevent Enemies Poisoning
Reservoir Water While
Constable Was Drunk

"I have done my best to do justice to the English-speaking citizens of Montreal ever since I have been mayor, and all I get for it is abuse and ridicule," said Mayor Martin yesterday afternoon, throwing violently on his desk an anonymous letter signed "English - Canadian," and which threatened his life. "I have stood a lot, but there is a limit to my patience and I tell you that after this letter an English-Canadian will never get a chance to be mayor of Montreal. If they want fight I'll give it to them, and I can tell you that the English are going to pay for this for years and years."

The letter complained of by the mayor reads as follows: "Mr. Mederic Martin, mayor of Montreal.—Because you are a dirty French-Canadian liar, just the same as all French-Canadians, and because you are a grafter, a thief and a coward, just the same as all French-Canadians, you are going to suffer. Be prepared for a sudden death.

"ENGLISH-CANADIAN."

"I have had five hundred letters like this," said the mayor, "and all threaten me, and they are all in English. At first they amused me, and I put them aside to read and laugh at when I am an old man. But this one insults the whole French-Canadian race as well as myself."

ONE OR TWO IN FRENCH.

"Have you ever had a threatening letter written in French, Mr. Mayor?" asked The Gazette representative.

"Well, perhaps, one or two," he acknowledged.

"That is a foolish letter," said the reporter. "Why do you take any notice of it? You surely do not think that that letter represents the attitude of English-speaking Canadians generally, do you? There are some fanatics in every race."

"No," he exclaimed, "the French-Canadians are not fanatics. They have always shown fair play towards the English and towards the Irish in this city and this province. We have had English mayors and Irish mayors, because the French-Canadians recognized it as just that they should have their turn. Will we ever see a French-speaking mayor in Westmount? No, and this will show the French-Canadians the truth. The English all stick together."

"I know both English and Irish citizens who voted for you at the last election," said the reporter.

"Yes, I know; but whole polls went solid against me. I have said that the majority of English are honest, and I have done my best while I was here to help them, just to show that I am not acting in a partizan spirit, but I only get abuse and ridicule."

"Not from all English-speaking Canadians," protested the reporter.

"They all hang together," said the mayor, "and the French are beginning to see it. The English newspapers all ridicule me at every opportunity, and then these people send me these letters and follow their example. The French-speaking electors of this city will show them that they cannot act this way with impunity."

HELPS HIM AT ELECTIONS.

"What do you care, Mr. Mayor, if it all helps you at the elections?"

"Yes, that is true, and it did last election," said the mayor with a smile. "I could stand this abuse as Mederic Martin, but as first magistrate of Canada's greatest city I think the position should be treated with greater respect."

"In what way have the English newspapers been doing you an injustice?" he was asked.

"They have been attacking me because I went on the Mountain in an automobile on Sunday. Do you suppose that if it had been anyone else, that the papers would have attacked them? Controller McDonald was on the Mountain in an automobile with Controller Ainey just a few weeks ago, and nothing was said about it. He had a perfect right to go because he was with Controller Ainey, who has a right to go there because he is head of the department of parks. I have a right to go there as mayor of this city when my presence is required there, to take a delegation or—"

"Were you taking a delegation, Mr. Mayor?"

THOSE WESTMOUNTERS.

"That was not the reason I went up. I had a member of Parliament with me from Ottawa, and I was going out with him for a ride, but before I

started I got a telephone message that the constable in charge of the reservoir was drunk. I went up to find out for myself, and I found it to be false. That was very important for the city, because an alien enemy might have been able to do great damage to the city by poisoning the water or otherwise damaging the reservoir. If I had been in the automobile of a friend I would not have gone up there, because that would have been pleasure, but I was in my own with my own chauffeur. I took Constable Lafleur so that I would not be criticized for my actions. I may have to go there again some time on duty. They cannot do anything to me about it."

"Is there any law which permits anyone to go up?"

"The Commissioner of Parks in American cities, where automobiles are forbidden in parks, is always allowed to visit the parks in his automobile, and it has to be that way here if an administrator has business to do."

"Whether right or not, Mr. Mayor, it was not because you were a French-Canadian that the newspapers criticized your action, but because they thought you were breaking a law."

"It is not the first time I have been insulted by English-speaking Canadians since I was elected, and I tell you that if I had known what those three fellows on horseback were saying when I passed them, I would have had them arrested by that mounted officer who stopped us before he knew who we were. I think they were from Westmount," and the mayor gave a savage force to the last sentence which amply demonstrated how little love he bore the three horsemen.

After once more asserting that it would be difficult in the future for an English-Canadian again to get a vote from a French-Canadian, the mayor terminated the interview.