

# UKRAINIANS HOLD PROTEST MEETING

## Pass Resolution Couched in Strong Terms Against Abolition of Bilingual Teaching.

## Press Favoring Change Described as Chauvinistic, Unpatriotic and Non-Christian.

"I don't see any other purpose in teaching English only in schools of Manitoba but to make all foreigners beasts of burden and nothing else."

This rather startling statement came from the lips of D. Yakimischak, who addressed a mass meeting of Ukrainians held in the Grand theatre yesterday afternoon for the purpose of voicing a strong protest against the proposed elimination of bilingualism in the schools of this province. The meeting was presided over by J. Sluzar, who was surrounded on the platform by a number of prominent Ruthenians. The other speakers, besides Mr. Yakimischak and Chairman Sluzar, were J. Petroshevich, who made his address in English and J. W. Arsenych, who spoke in Ruthenian.

Mr. Yakimischak, who is a fourth year student in philosophy at Manitoba college, spoke for over an hour. He could not conceal his animosity toward the Free Press for its stand on bilingualism and at times, all through his speech, broke forth with sarcastic comment on this paper.

### Explains Act.

Chairman Sluzar announced that the committee which was seated on the stage, had called the meeting. He then explained the Manitoba Bilingual School act and how it happened to be spread on the provincial statute books.

Mr. Petroshevich followed with a few words. He said that the meeting had been convened at the desire of Ukrainian citizens who had become alarmed at the attitude of a certain faction of the English press on the bilingual question. He read the clause in the Manitoba School act which provided that the language spoken by at least ten of the pupils attending a school should be also taught at that school. "Why should the bilingual question be used as a weapon in the hands of some partisans to ferment bad feeling and blood toward the Ruthenian people?" he asked. "We Ruthenians shall not cease to obey the law if it is regularly amended, but we do object to terrorization and imposition from a certain faction of the press."

### Charges Free Press.

The student of philosophy followed. "What has impelled the foreigner to come here?" he began. "He not only desires to improve his economic condition but also he desires further freedom. The Free Press of late has questioned whether or not these people are good citizens and also questioned their loyalty to the empire. This has been done to foment racial hatred.

"The loyalty of the Ruthenians is unquestioned," said the speaker. "They have enlisted in numbers and contributed handsomely to the patriotic and Red Cross funds. They also pay their taxes. On the other hand, the patriotism of the Free Press is questionable. In its hysterical imagination it sees all sorts of small racial formations in their inception."

The Free Press imagines, said the philosophical student, that all other nationalities should be dealt with as were the North American Indians in Canada who, he said, had been so terrorized that they had simply died out, at the present time there being but 13,000 of them left in this country. "Anyone who had a great desire for the assimilation of different nationalities in this country," said he, "should be very careful."

He devoted himself to explaining what he termed "the fallacy of these press arguments, which accentuates argumentation in bias and hatred." He said that such a press should not exist. "We see a press," said he, "that does not state facts fairly in the face."

And applause for the first time came forth.

### Works Up Audience.

The speaker claimed that it was fallacious to assert, as the Free Press had, that English was being crowded out of the schools. He said the Free Press had asserted that if the foreigner was dissatisfied with the educational facilities of this province he should pack his trunk and go back to his happy home in the war zone of Europe. "I had, by this time, worked him up to such a pitch of excitement that many vociferously cried 'come, shame!'"

"The press," said the young student of philosophy, "should bear in mind that we are strong for a thorough education and nothing more. The highest object of education, at least in the cities, is to teach the children good English. The children realize this; and likewise set it as the highest object of their education; that is their ideal, and, as a consequence, many are leaving school at an early age, and we see them today spending all their money over the bars."

The speaker, who is a former pupil in the Plumridge school district, said that the ideal of that school was a higher education, and not just the teaching and learning of English.

### Why Winnipeg Failed!

"Let us be frank and look the matter straight in the face," said he. "Is it possible to imagine that good English teachers could be induced to go among foreigners and live with them? What kind of teachers have we got?" he asked, interrupted by a voice which he called "lumberjacks." "Lumberjacks!" said the orator, "we have lumberjacks and at one time we had a blacksmith. For nothing, if for nothing more, we must have bilingual teachers."

"We cannot bring bilingualism into Winnipeg, and that is why Winnipeg has so miserably failed in the matter of higher education."

The speaker held that it was in family training rather than in schools that the child received the fundamental principles of his education. "We should see to it," said he, "that the home and the school go hand in hand. If we are to get the proper education for our children we must have teachers who understand the souls and the homes of those children," said he.

### Resolution Passed.

The following resolution was passed:

"Whereas certain part of misinformed press in Canada, prompted by party motives, spares no effort towards upsetting the harmony and concord prevailing amongst the citizens of Manitoba, regardless of descent and origin;

"Whereas this Chauvinistic press, by baseless and wicked insinuations strives to disseminate germs of racial hatred and antagonistic spirit amongst the citizens of the British and non-British descent;

"Whereas, under pressure of fanatical and reactionary elements in the press the Manitoba government

entertains a step calculated to deprive Canadian Ukrainians in Manitoba of their natural rights bestowed on every community through divine and human justice, and intends to abolish the laws permitting the use of our language in public schools;

"Whereas, instigating British population of Canada to an open enmity against Canadian Ukrainians, certain Chauvinistic part of the press is striving insidiously to make life and normal development of Canadian Ukrainians impossible;

"We, the citizens of Manitoba, assembled at the mass meeting held in the hall of the Grand Opera house in Winnipeg, this 30th day of January, 1916, condemn the above-outlined behavior of the Chauvinistic press as treacherous, non-patriotic and non-Christian like terrorism; appealing at the same time to the Manitoba government, to the whole uncorrupt part of the press and every fair-minded citizen who is not blinded by the narrow party spirit—to join hands in stamping out the undesirable propaganda of racial firebrands."