

## LIBERALS AND MULTI-LINGUALISM

Aside from scandal-mongering, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party base their hopes of a return to power mainly upon the support of French-Canadians, Germans, Austrians and other elements of the population opposed to the war. They are playing for a united foreign vote and a solid Quebec. By countenancing in Parliament the Nationalist slanders against Ontario, the Opposition leader consolidated his position in all French and partly French constituencies, and at the same time gave encouragement to the multi-language enthusiasts of Western Canada, who are trying to make the Prairie Provinces a babel of tongues and nationalities.

In Manitoba, Ruthenians, like the French, have had their own schools, from which English has been virtually excluded; and in opposing the Government, which proposes to teach them English, they quote the French-Canadian agitation as their precedent and warrant. So it is in Saskatchewan, where, under the Laurier autonomy legislation, as interpreted by a Liberal Government of Sir Wilfrid's creation, French, Germans and Ruthenians demand the use of all three languages even in educational conventions. The action of Mr. Bourassa and Sir Wilfrid Laurier has heartened the racial opponents of Canadian unity in a manner that is disquieting to thoughtful men throughout the commonwealth.

Two recent American books reveal the extraordinary extent to which the organization of a lesser Germany within the United States has been carried by the Kaiser's spies and agents. One of these works is Thayer's "Life of John Hay," the other "Their True Faith and Allegiance," by Gustavus Ohlinger. The daring and persistence of the Teutonic conspiracy are astonishing, and Canadians must not forget that their own country is not free from similar plotting. There is "Der Deutsch-Canadische Provinzialverband von Saskatchewan," or The German-Canadian Provincial

Association of Saskatchewan. The neighboring Province has its "Bund der Deutschen in Alberta," or League of Germans in Alberta. In a document issued since the war began, the secretary of the Alberta League explains that its purposes are, first, to foster the German language and have it used in the Alberta school system. It is frankly declared that the Germans in Canada have a cultural mission to perform here and that to this end there must be instruction in German wherever the German population is strong enough to get it. With this object in view, it is urged that there be German bi-lingual as well as French bi-lingual training schools for teachers.

The Germans of the West are told that one of the most important duties of the future will be to see that in municipal, Provincial and Dominion elections, as many men of German origin are chosen as is possible. It is claimed that 35 per cent. of the people of Saskatchewan are German in origin and that they should be more largely represented in legislative and administrative bodies. This campaign is identical with that which has so long been conducted in the United States. There can be no objection to Germans in Parliament and in the Legislatures, but they should go there as whole-souled Canadians and not as Germans. The German Bund of Saskatchewan is on all fours with the Alberta organization. They have demanded closer economic and trade relations between Germany and Canada with Canadian raw material for the Fatherland and German manufactures for the Dominion. This programme is, of course, diametrically opposed to the policy of the British Empire and the Allies agreed upon at the Paris Economic Congress a few weeks ago, and we know that the proposals of the Prairie bunds will not be popular in manufacturing centres like Berlin, Ontario.

The German campaign is nevertheless to embrace all Canada. There is to be a local branch wherever 20 Germans can be found. The German-Canadians are to be "an aggressive power" in Canada as in the United States, so that the Dominion also shall "bear the marks which take their root in the German spirit." Here follows a familiar German couplet, with the translation "The world will be healed once more by German nature." The racial, lingual and nationalist movements, from which the Liberal leaders expect to benefit at the next general election, are a distinct and growing menace to the nation. They can only be defeated by a solid union of those elements in the population which are preponderantly Canadian and British in their patriotism, their ideals and their ambitions. Fortunately there are thousands of patriotic, far-sighted Canadians, of French, German and other non-British origins, who are soundly Canadian and British in their views, who are doing their part in the war and who will not lend themselves to the programme of disintegration promoted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Bourassa.

### THE WHITNEY WAY

Mr. Hearst has his predecessor's example as a precedent for giving the Government candidate in Southwest Toronto some latitude on the temperance question. The Hamilton Spectator recalls that while Sir James Whitney was in opposition, a friend said to him: "Have you any objection to any of your candidates giving a pledge to the temperance people that if elected he will support prohibition in the House?" "None at all," he replied, "and if any Conservative candidate does give such a pledge, that pledge is respected when he gets to Toronto. He will be expected to abide by any caucus decision on other questions, but on that he is free to do whatever he promised to do prior to election." Sir James Whitney's view was that temperance reform could best be effected by keeping the question out of politics and by advancing in accord with public opinion. The Opposition carried North Perth by putting the issue back into politics.