

SETTLERS MUST OBEY OUR LAWS

All Pioneers in Northern Ontario to Conform to Provincial Regulations

SETTLEMENT PRIVILEGES

Sam. Carter, M.P.P., Suggests Conference to Modify Regulation Seventeen.

It was made clear in the Legislature last night by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, that no newcomers will be allowed to settle in Northern Ontario, whether they are French-Canadians from Quebec or people from any other country, unless they are willing to subscribe to the regulations of this Province, both as regards military service, language, and in every other way. The discussion arose over questions asked by Mr. Z. Mageau of Sturgeon Falls, in reference to settlers' regulations, when the estimates of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines were being considered in committee.

Exercise Discrimination.

The Minister said he did not agree that the regulations should be so wide as to get all kinds of people in the country. One of the difficulties in Canada has been that the law has been too wide open, and no matter under what conditions they were born, or the training they received, they have been welcomed here. The war has taught us that hereafter people invited to come to live in this country must agree to become law-abiding citizens.

Mr. Ferguson reiterated his statement of a few days ago that with regard to Regulation 17 conditions have improved substantially in the northern country, and are continuing to improve. There is no longer the same disposition on the part of French-Canadians to believe that the Government desires to exterminate the French tongue. The thinking people in those French-speaking communities, he believed, have reached the conclusion that the Government does not desire to deprive them of their language. "I think I can say that the people of this Province," said the Minister, "both English and French speaking, are determined that they shall give their children an opportunity of learning the English language. It was upon that ground that this regulation was brought into being."

Foreigners Must Conform.

The Minister said that of the different nationalities coming into Ontario most trouble was found with the Austrians. Steps had to be taken to show these immigrants that "while they will be welcome they must respect our institutions and obey our laws, because there is nothing to compel them to come here. The same thing applies to military provisions, because my emphatic view is that a man who is not prepared to stand up and defend the citizenship of the Province should not be accorded the privilege of such citizenship."

In answer to a question asked by Dr. Forbes Godfrey (West York) as to his attitude to the regulations, Mr. Mageau said he objected to any regulation of his compatriots or pioneers who settle anywhere in the Province, irrespective of any laws that may be placed on the statute books. He said his ancestors were the first settlers in this country and that they had as much right in the Province as the member for West York. "I should say that the French-Canadians should make every possible effort to teach their children the official language in the Province of Ontario. We have no ambition to become rulers of the Province of Ontario; all we want is our fair share of the sun."

The Policy of Settlement.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson told Mr. G. Evanturel (Prescott) that the regulations were not framed to prevent immigrants from Quebec settling in Ontario, proof of which was the number coming into this Province. He didn't think it wise to open up all the unorganized territory, for some day Northern Ontario will have to be treated differently than at present. It must be organized and have its own municipalities. He was convinced that returned soldiers were going to make successful settlers.

Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) said it would be the biggest mistake the Government could make to open all the townships up north at once, but he felt settlers would have to be brought in from Quebec and other countries.

Conference on Regulation 17.

A notable suggestion was made by Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) when he said the members of the Government and the French-Canadian members of the House should get together with a view to a modification of Regulation 17 and the clauses in the new land settlement regulations which are irritating to the French-Canadians. He thought a conference should take place in the Premier's office with a view to a settlement of the vexed bilingual problem. He made it clear, however, that Ontario must remain an English Province, but declared that both the Orangemen and the French-Canadians had gone too far. There should be a safe middle course, he said. There would be little trouble if the politicians did not play on the prejudices of the people.

Mr. Evanturel (Prescott) said that the English-speaking people and the Minister of Education should come into closer touch with the French-Canadians, and he invited the Minister of Education to visit the bilingual schools "and he will see the improvement we are making in teaching the English language." "The French-Canadians have no desire to rule Ontario," said Mr. Evanturel, "and opportunity should be taken during the war to withdraw Regulation 17 from the Province. Regulation 17 means cut-throat for the French language, and the Minister of Education knows, because French children can get only one hour of French in the schools each day."

MAY FILL FOUR VACANT SEATS

Legislature Hears of Bill to Enable Votes to be Taken if Necessary

It is hoped that the four vacant seats in the Legislature will be filled without by-elections being held, but the Attorney-General, Hon. I. B. Lucas, announced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon that the Government is having drafted a special bill providing for the taking of the votes in the event of contests being held.

The vacant seats are North Oxford, formerly represented by Hon. Newton W. Rowell; South Huron, formerly represented by Mr. A. H. Musgrove, now postmaster of Wingham; Manitoulin, represented by the late Mr. R. R. Gamey, and Lennox and Addington, by the late Mr. Carscallen.

An effort will be made to fill the vacancies by arrangement, and the probability is, so far as the Government and the Opposition are concerned, that the party which held the seats after the last election will be allowed to retain them without a contest.

The Attorney-General said that, in the legislation now being drafted, the more elaborate machinery of the regular act, which requires the printing of lists and so forth, is being modified in order to save labor and expense. The Government was hoping that there would be no contests in these by-elections, but still the necessary machinery was being provided in case contests were necessary.