

Saturday, April 4th

TEACHING OF FRENCH IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS IS STRONGLY URGED

**Aurelien Belanger, M.P.P. for
Russell, Delivers Earnest
Address in Legislature**

AIDING "BONNE ENTENTE"

Plea for sympathetic consideration for the teaching of French to the French-Canadian children in some of the schools, at least, in Ontario was made yesterday in the Legislature by Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell). Mr. Belanger spoke for two hours, and at 6 o'clock moved the adjournment of the debate, to continue on Monday.

The member for Russell, who spoke to a resolution in his name on the order paper, cited the teaching of languages in schools in many countries in Europe, quoted from eminent authorities in England to support his argument, and even went as far as the Union of South Africa, where, he claimed, the Dutch language seemed to be recognized more than the historically and traditionally beautiful French language was in Ontario.

Aiding "Bonne Entente."

Mr. Belanger said he hoped his resolution would be taken in the House as one more contribution to the Bonne Entente. "The Bonne Entente," he added, "is possible only on one condition, and that is a mutual appreciation of each other's point of view, an appreciation of difficulties and of differences which, when they are looked at, not through the prisms of prejudice, racial or otherwise, will be found in most cases to be nothing more than national peculiarities, national idiosyncrasies, that can easily be reconciled once they are understood."

Tribute to French-Canadians.

One of the first conditions of that mutual understanding was the recognition of what each race has contributed and is contributing to the building up of Ontario, he said. Reciting historic deeds of French pioneers in Canada, he said there was an element of stability in the French-Canadian. French-Canadian citizens of Ontario were proud of Ontario and wanted to take their part in the building up of the Province, he said.

He had no desire to make political capital, said the speaker. The French-Canadian in Ontario was anxious to have full and adequate teaching of English to his children. He quoted testimony of Dr. James L. Hughes to prove this, and added: "We believe in the Empire, in which English is the language. We owe it to Canada to learn the language of the majority."

Claims Fundamental Right.

One of the fundamental rights and liberties, he held, was the right and liberty of one's language, especially in Canada, where French was an official language. He quoted from Magna Charta and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to support his view that fundamentally the rights of one's language were thereby affirmed.