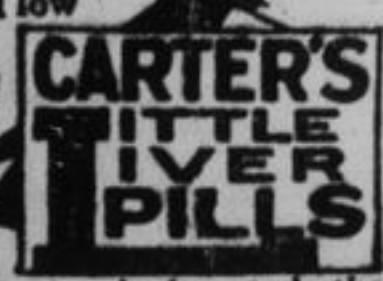


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Letters to the Editor

No. 2.

Bilingualism and Regulation 17.
Cataragui, April 23.—(To the Editor): Those who think that the controversy over bilingualism is solely between English Protestants and French Roman Catholics are entirely mistaken. His Lordship, Bishop Fallon, of London, was a priest in Ottawa when the first breach occurred between the Irish and the French Roman Catholics of that city and his vigorous denunciation of existing conditions leaves us room for doubt that he had come to the conclusion that the teaching of English was being shamefully neglected in many of the separate schools of Eastern Ontario attended by both English and French-speaking Catholics. Other distinguished Roman Catholic prelates strongly opposed the attitude and pretensions of the French Canadians which they reproached as un-Catholic and inimical to the separate schools of the province. The Rev. Father M. J. Whalen, a well known Irish Catholic cleric, addressed an open letter to Cardinal Begin, of Quebec, in which he declared that of there was racial war in Ontario, if public opinion was in-

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famed, it was because of the utterances of "Le Drot" and its supporters, and quoted as proof a statement in that paper that "In 1760 England sent her Loyalists into Upper Canada to pull down the cross of the Christ and mow down the hills of France," and another which dealt with the influx of French Canadians into Prescott, Russell and Glengarry as, "driving out before them the usurpers of that French and Catholic soil." Father Whalen then reviewed the growth of the French Canadians in the province and added these strong words: "We can easily explain why continuous, reckless raiding on the schools of the province, to make them French, was regarded by the Protestant majority as a carefully planned campaign by the Quebec hierarchy to acquire on Ontario soil domination in civil affairs." In a letter to Sir Lomer Gouin, premier of Quebec at that time and now minister of justice in the King administration, Father Whalen declared, "We do not intend to let the French ruin our separate schools while they use militant tactics to obtain more French teaching."

Because of the increasing number of complaints and the vigorous remonstrances of such prominent Roman Catholic clerics as Father Fallon and Father Whalen, the government of Sir James Whitney caused an inquiry to be made by Dr. F. W. Merchant, which established the fact that in many schools of the province practically no attempt was made to provide an English education. Meanwhile on March 22nd, 1911, the Ontario legislature unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved that the English language shall be the language of instruction and of all communications with the pupils in the public and separate schools of the province except where, in the opinion of the department of education, it is impracticable by reason of pupils not understanding English."

Dr. Merchant's report is based on his personal inspection of 269 schools employing 538 teachers. In these schools the French language is either a subject of study or is the language employed by the teacher as the medium of communication and instruction. As might be expected, conditions were less satisfactory in some schools than in others, but the general situation is summarized on page 69 of his report as follows:—

"It is evident from an examination of the results of all the tests applied that the English-French schools are, on the whole, lacking in efficiency. The tests combine to show that a large proportion of the children in the communities concerned leave school to meet the demands of life with an inadequate equipment in education." From Dr. Merchant's report the following significant facts are gathered:

(1) There were 69 teachers without certificates and with no professional training whatever.

(2) Of 141 teachers holding temporary certificates about 50 per cent. came from Quebec.

(3) 61 teachers held only district certificates.

(4) 24 teachers in Ottawa and 19 in Russell without certificates were retained by the separate school boards in opposition to the objection and wishes of the inspector.

(5) 40 teachers were entirely unfitted to teach English through ignorance of the language and many others used English with a strongly marked French accent.

(6) In 80 per cent. of the R.C. separate schools in Eastern Ontario and in 90 per cent. of the public and separate schools in the districts, English was simply regarded as one subject among others in the course of study. This would apply to over 200 schools and more than 400 teachers in Ontario.

(7) In about 85 per cent. of the schools where English and French were used for purposes of instruction in Forms III and IV, French was the more extensively used.

Dr. Merchant's conclusions and recommendations may be summed up in a few words, viz. the advisability of providing well qualified teachers and of making French the language of communication and instruction for the first two years of the child's school life and of gradually making English the language of instruction and communication as the child's knowledge of that language increased. With that end in view a manual of method to aid the teachers in instructing pupils in English was prepared and issued to the schools and arrangements made for the adequate inspection of bilingual schools by both English and French inspectors. In addition the government decided to maintain the special training schools for French teachers at Sturgeon Falls, Sandwich, Vankleek Hill and Ottawa and to pay the travelling expenses and board of the teachers attending them. It also issued the now famous Regulation 17 which will be considered in my next letter.

—J. W. EDWARDS.
Cataragui, April, 1923.
(To be continued.)

Deputy Grand Master.
William Pillar, of this city, was recently elected district deputy grand master for the Kingston district of the A.O.U.W. order. James E. Hall, Prescott, is the deputy for St. Lawrence district.

At 20 years of age the will reigns; at 30, the wit, and at 40, the judgment.
He lives long who lives well, and time mispent is not lived, but lost.

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Today's Radio Programme

MONDAY, APRIL 23.
WGY (Schenectady, N.Y.)
12:30 p.m.—Noon stock market quotations.
12:45 p.m.—Weather report on 485 meters.
2:00 p.m.—Music and address, "Art in the Home," by Mrs. E. J. Murphy.
6:00 pm.—Produce and stock market report and quotations: news bulletins.
7:45 p.m.—Musical programme.

Sale and Purchase of Property
James Stewart has sold his residence on Owen street, Lanark, to Alfred Roberts and has purchased the residence of Miss Margaret Walters on the corner of York and Clarence streets, Lanark.

To Prevent Accidents
The Ontario Motor League has offered 140 cash prizes, worth in all \$200, for the best essays by Ontario Public School children on "How Children May Help to Avoid Motor Accidents."

Sand Bay Corner Bought
James Kelsey has purchased from J. Ripley, Lyndhurst, the house and lot on Sand Bay corner known as Sand Bay post office, now occupied by Elmer Cross. Mr. Cross intends moving into Lansdowne village.

Deliver not your words by number but by weight.

Good Night Stories By Blanche Silver

THE FOOLISH LITTLE SPIDER AND THE WISE LITTLE ANT
"My goodness!" exclaimed Missy Spider, when for the tenth time she tried to catch her silken thread to the wild oat stem. "Funny how that foolish plant twists and turns that way I've never before had such a time fastening my thread."

She settled back on a leaf and watched the oat-plant a second, then shook her head.

"I believe that plant's bewitched, as sure as I'm alive," and she threw down her safety line to the grass and climbed down as fast as she could go. "I'm not going to have it bewitch me as long as I have two legs left on which to run." And she ran as fast as her six little legs could carry her to the nearest neighbor, Mrs. Black Ant.

Mrs. Black Ant opened her tiny doorway, and when she saw who her guest was she hurried back.

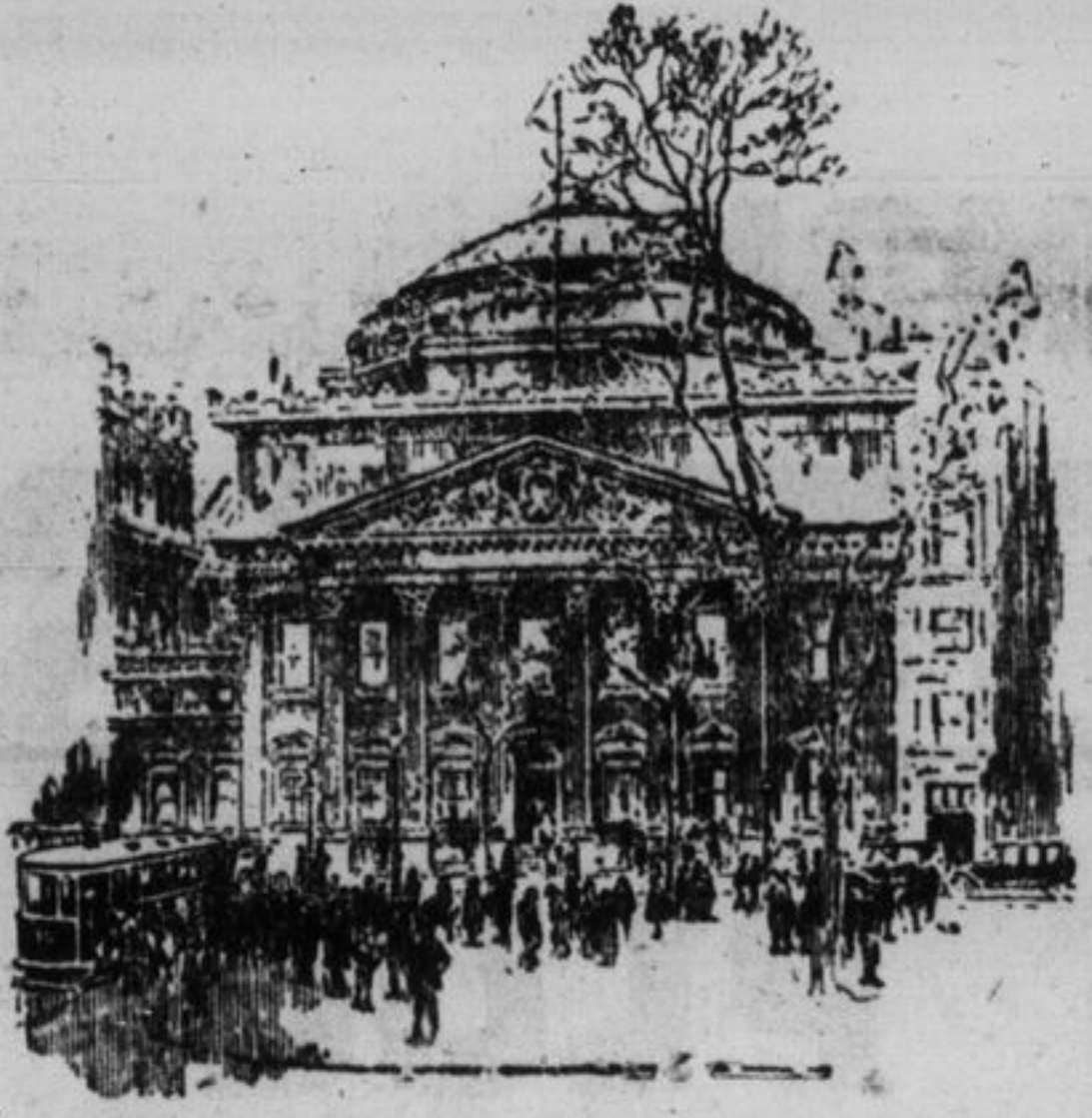
"Oh, come on out, Mrs. Black Ant!" cried the excited Missy Spider. "I didn't come to eat you. I came to get your help."
"Help from me?" laughed Mrs. Black Ant, as she ventured forth from her doorway. "What can I do to help you, may I ask?"
"Why, I've just made a terrible

discovery," replied Missy Spider, all out of breath. "Something is wrong over in the field yonder. I started to spin my house in the wild oat-plant. All of a sudden it began to twist and turn and quiver and snake until I couldn't fasten my thread to it at all. I really believe the poor plant is either ill or bewitched. I never saw such actions before in all my life. Do please come and see. Maybe you can help the poor thing."



Mrs. Black Ant Laughed

"Well, of course, if I can be of any service to anyone," and Mrs. Black Ant hurried away by Missy Spider's side to the writhing plant. "Did you ever see anything quite so queer in all your life?" asked Missy Spider. "I'm sure the poor thing must be bewitched. I've tried at least ten times to fasten my thread to one of its stems, and every time it would twist so hard it would tear down my thread. What shall we do to help her?"
At this Mrs. Black Ant began to laugh as only a little ant can laugh. At first Missy Spider didn't know whether to join in and laugh, too or whether to grow angry, until Mrs. Black Ant informed her she wasn't laughing at her, but at the silly plant.
"yet I shouldn't laugh at her either," she sighed, wiping her eyes with her apron. "That's the only way the poor thing has of planting herself."
"Planting herself!" exclaimed Missy Spider, who could hardly believe her ears. "What are you talking about, anyway?"
"The wild oat-plant always uses cloudy, damp weather to plant her roots deeper into the soil," replied Mrs. Black Ant. "And I'm here to tell you you'd better hurry and hang your house somewhere or you'll not be ready when the rain is over. Whenever you see a wild oat-plant twisting and squirming that way you can rest assured rain isn't far off. If you'll excuse me, I'll go now, before it catches me." Without another word Mrs. Black Ant hurried home.
Missy Spider built her home on the rose bush, and was ready when the rain came. She never forgot what Mrs. Black Ant told her, and she never tried to build her home on a wild oat-plant again.
Those who think must govern those who toil.



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