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Letters to the Editor

Bilingualism and Regulation 17.
Cataract, April 25.—(To the Editor): Ottawa has been the storm centre of the agitation against Regulation 17 and the school laws of the province and the headquarters of the educational malcontents and agitators who, for thirty-five years, have disturbed the general peace and been more or less a law unto themselves. The Irish Catholics, being the larger property owners, pay most of the school taxes while the French Catholics exercise the power of their numerical majority to absolutely control the schools. Disagreements arose as to the financial management and efficiency of the separate schools and in 1886 the Ottawa Separate School Board, without any statutory authority for so doing, divided itself into two committees. In 1892 the departmental inspector, Dr. J. F. White, reported unfavorably on those Ottawa schools and a commission, appointed to investigate, reported:

"From a consideration of all the facts and from a careful examination of the French schools, the commission can come to no other conclusion than that there is no attempt worthy of the name to teach English in the boys' schools."
In the girls' schools the knowledge of English was less imperfect because, while only a few teachers could speak English fairly well, a special teacher went from class to class and instructed pupils after the conversational method. It is therefore apparent that our bilingual troubles are not of recent origin and that, despite the repeated assertions of French leaders to the contrary, there is strong ground for the growing belief that, back of all the agitation, there is a determined effort to displace the English language entirely in certain sections of the province.

Opposition to Reg. 17 manifested itself by refusal to allow the inspectors to enter the schools and by the Ottawa S. S. Board (controlled by the French majority) passing a resolution repudiating the law and declining to obey it. The Ottawa agitators not only openly defied the educational law of the province but set up a little government of their own with Mr. Sam Genest as minister of education and general dictator, and issued circulars to other French-English sections requesting their cooperation and obedience to their commands. A local inspector was employed by the board to organize the schools, the classes and the teachers and notices were sent out dispensing with the services of all English-speaking teachers and a new schedule of greatly reduced salaries was adopted which precluded the engagement of properly qualified teachers. They questioned the validity of Reg. 17 but maintained their rebellious attitude after Mr. Justice Lennox had given judgment in November, 1914, that the regulation was *intra vires* the province and his decision had been sustained in July, 1915 by the Court of Appeal, the highest judicial tribunal in the province. The Ottawa S. S. Board continued to defy the law and finally the minister of Education introduced a bill in the legislature appointing a committee of three to administer the Ottawa Separate Schools. This bill passed without division.

Never in the history of Canada, except in the cases of armed rebellion, has open defiance of the law been carried to such extremity as in recent years in the province of Ontario. Never before has any legislature disregarded political decency and violated friendly provincial relations by giving legislative authority, as did the province of Quebec, to its school boards to appropriate a part of their funds to assist their compatriots in Ontario in fighting the laws of the province. Never before have ancient educational theorists allowed themselves to be made the tools of designing agitators nor employed their talents in a cause so unworthy. That there is no desire to proscribe the French language in Ontario is amply demonstrated by the generous time allowance prescribed by the regulations for its study and use, by the thousands of dollars expended annually to provide special training schools for French teachers and pay their expenses while attending them and by the extra government grants given to encourage French-English schools to employ the best qualified teachers available. But Ontario does not intend to permit English minorities to be stifled in certain sections of the province in order to satisfy the arrogant claims and wild ravings of a group of malcontents, nor will it be influenced in its determination to make it possible for every child to obtain an education in English because of the meddling interference of the Quebec legislature or the misdirected sympathy of educational theorists. No person will dispute the fact that, from the cultural standpoint, two languages are better than one and three are better than two. But there are the practical and the national viewpoints as well as the theoretical to be considered. Ontario cannot afford to allow incompetent French-English schools to manufacture illiterates to please the racial pride of the dominant population in certain sections of our province, nor view with complacency the systematic displacement of English-speaking people by

those of French origin. If, as Ontario increases in population, wealth and influence, it is to develop along British lines, it is necessary that the enforced use of English, as the common language of the country, be insisted on in our schools not only as an essential element of our national life but also as a distinctive sign of our nationality. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your generous courtesy, I remain yours sincerely,

—J. W. EDWARDS.

EMINENT JEWISH LEADER

Dr. Alexander Goldstein on Special Mission to Jews of Canada.

Dr. Alexander Goldstein, a leading Jew of Russia is in this city to help in the drive for funds for the building up of Palestine as a Jewish homeland. Dr. Goldstein is recognized as one of the ablest among the younger leaders of the Zionist Movement in Russia. He was born in Minsk, Russia, in 1883, and received his education in a Russian gymnasium, later studying law in Petrograd university. He joined the Zionist Movement in 1901, and soon became recognized as a leading force, owing to his exceptional gifts of oratory. In 1917 he was elected deputy to the all-Russian constituent assembly, convened by Kerensky. In 1919 he was a member of the first All-Jewish congress of Ukraine and was elected president of that body, later being sent in that capacity as a representative to the Jewish delegation at the Peace Conference in Paris. In November, 1921, Dr. Goldstein came to America as a member of the special Zionist commission. Some two months ago the Canadian Zionist requested the Zionist



DR. ALEXANDER GOLDSTEIN

headquarters in London, England, to send Dr. Goldstein together with Col. J. H. Patterson as a special commission to organize the campaign for Palestine in this country. He has already toured the west in company with Col. Patterson, and he is now going through Ontario alone. Col. Patterson having been obliged to return to England.

Questioned as to the Zionist situation at the present time, Dr. Goldstein said, "Zionism is now a reality. For two thousand years the Jews all over the world suffered all kinds of persecutions, and the sustaining power was the hope of the eventual return of the Jewish people to Palestine. The idea of the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine was the centre of all Jewish thought and ambition and hope. Finally the opportunity to realize the age-long hope has been granted to the Jews. First came the famous declaration by Great Britain, voiced by Lord Balfour in 1917, promising the Jews the opportunity to re-establish themselves as a nation in Palestine. Then came the recognition of this promise by the League of Nations. Now Great Britain has been entrusted with the mandate of the League of Nations, to help make Palestine a Jewish home. This mandate has been confirmed by practically every power of importance in the world. The Jews have been recognized as a nation, and Palestine as a homeland.

The burden of the financial effort falls upon the Jews who are situated in the more fortunate countries, particularly those residing in the English-speaking lands. A tacit agreement has been made, that the Jews of Europe are to furnish the men and the Jews of America are to supply the money."

Queried as to his impression of Canada, Dr. Goldstein said, "I have visited many countries including Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Rumania, England, France, Bulgaria, Germany, Argentine and the United States. I can say that the Jews of Canada have given me a pleasant surprise. The total Jewish population in this country does not exceed 150,000 people, but this comparatively handful have made some very fine contributions to the Zionist cause. Everywhere I visited I have found the Jews intelligently interested in the Zionist questions, and eager to do their share. They recognize that Zionism is a matter of British policy as well as a Jewish Britisher. The Jews in the western communities, as also those in the east, have contributed even more than I expected. Dr. Goldstein remarked that the Jewish ladies of Canada have the finest organization of their kind in the world. The Women's Zionist organization is called "Hadassah" and he has found a better spirit and a greater devotion amongst the Jewish women of Canada than anywhere else in his travels.

FROM WHIG FYLES.

OF TEN AND TWENTY YEARS AGO.

April 25th, 1913.

A stubborn fire in the carriage shop of W. G. Frost, Queen street, resulted in damage to extent of \$3,000.

Gold medals in medicine and surgery were won by E. W. Boak and V. T. Lawlor respectively, both Kingstonians in a graduating class of forty in Queen's medical college.

Two Italian laborers seriously injured during blasting operations on C.P.R. right-of-way near Christie Lake.

Steamer Robert Wallace arrived from Chicago with first cargo of corn for Richardson's elevator.

April 25th, 1903.

Lt.-Col. Hudson, C.M.G., has retired from the command of "B" Battery, R.C.H.A., and will be succeeded by Capt. Leslie. Col. Hudson commanded "C" Battery during the South African war.

Many tributes to the statesmanship of Sir Oliver Mowat are published throughout America.

Many country merchants are complaining of the nuisance of the packpedlar.

Rifle ranges to be established on west side of Cataract river for local volunteer riflemen.

GANANOQUE

April 25.—The death occurred suddenly Monday night of W. F. Latimer, one of Gananogue's most respected citizens. Mr. Latimer was for many years engaged in the drygoods business, later acting as secretary-treasurer for both the Ontario Wheel Company and Gananogue Water Power Company. A few years ago he retired from all active business. Surviving him are two daughters, Mrs. J. W. Beattie and Miss Pearl Latimer, Gananogue, and three sons, Alex., New York; Kenneth, Detroit, and Reginald, Calgary.

W. J. Fair, Gananogue East, who has been ill for some time past, died yesterday. Mr. Fair has for some years made his home with his sister, Miss Agnes Fair, and is also survived by Mrs. R. Singleton, Lyndhurst; Mrs. Freeman Shipman, Ivy Lea, sisters, and one brother, Robert Fair, High River, Calgary.

The organization of the Canadian club was completed in council chambers of the town hall Monday evening. Officers were appointed as follows: Honorary presidents, Charles Macdonald and J. C. Linklater; president, W. J. Wilson; 1st vice-president, Andrew Edwards; 2nd vice-president, J. T. Green; secretary, Clifford Sine; treasurer, F. W. Bell. Council, A. L. Lott, Dr. Stedman and I. B. Gilbert. The first meeting is expected to be in the form of a banquet, to be held early in May.

Several golf enthusiasts are to be seen on the links each day now. The season promises to be a very active one for the club with several tournaments, etc. A man's open handicap competition has been arranged the matches to commence the week beginning the 18th of June. The prize for this must be won two years by the same player, and will be a handsome bronze ornament donated by the president, W. T. Sampson. There will also be a ring competition, and D. Ford Jones is donating two best quality golf clubs for a lady's and man's prize in this connection. These prizes will be awarded to the player who has registered the lowest "ringer" score between the 1st of May and 15th of September.

Dr. Royal Lee, Brooklyn, N.Y., is a visitor in town.

Miss Euretta Sinclair has returned from a holiday in Montreal.

Mrs. W. B. Mudie and children have returned from an extended visit with friends in Detroit and Buffalo.

Mrs. Henry Cochran entertained at Euchre Monday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Cheer, Sudbury.

W. E. Brough, Brockville, is in town for a few days.

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Shortage of Labor
Owing to the number of big construction jobs in the city, employers are anticipating a shortage of labor. When the firm of John Gray and Sons, Ltd., Toronto, started work on Tuesday all available laboring men were quickly absorbed, as Queen's University Library took all that were on the books at the employment bureau up to that time. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Stroud had no men to place.

Mike Ordano and his wife were burned to death in their home at Hamilton, Tuesday night.
Johnny Kilbane, world's feather-weight champion, is reinstated in New York state.

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