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## Use of French Language on Quebec Railways.

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Mr. Justice Surveyer gave judgment in the Quebec Superior Court, at Montreal, recently, in the action heard some time ago, brought by M. Demers, advocate, Montreal, against the C.P.R., with J. Fegg, mis-en-cause, to recover \$500 damages for suffering, nervousness and affront, which he alleged to have suffered through Fegg threatening to put him off a C.P.R. train on Oct. 12, 1919. The plaintiff boarded the train at Choisy and failing to find his ticket when asked for it, he told the conductor in English he would find it and give it to him afterwards. A little later the conductor asked him again for the ticket, when he demanded that the conductor speak in French. Following this an altercation resulted, and some scuffling took place which lasted about a minute, according to other passengers, during which the conductor told Demers that if he did not give up his ticket he would be put off the train.

Mr. Justice Surveyer held that, in refusing to give up his ticket under the circumstances, the plaintiff was hampering the conductor in the discharge of his duties. The Railway Act, in providing for the printing of tickets, notices, etc., in French in the province, intended to pre-

e train.

Mr. Justice Surveyer held that, in refusing to give up his ticket under the circumstances, the plaintiff was hampering the conductor in the discharge of his duties. The Railway Act, in providing for the printing of tickets, notices, etc., in French in the province, intended to prevent travellers and shippers from being led into error because of their ignorance of English. A provincial statute had been passed with the same object, and there were sanctions for the enforcement of both these laws. But penal provisions should be interpreted restrictively, and therefore it was sufficient for a railway conductor in the province to be able to understand the French language, but he is not obliged to ask for a ticket in French from a passenger who has shown that he understands English. The conductor apparently lost his temper, and threatening to put the plaintiff off the train before it had stopped, had overstepped his legal rights. The action was therefore dismissed, but without costs.