

only pronounced in the old French way, but they are not "French patois." This can be explained very easily when we know that it is almost impossible to deprive a man of his mother tongue. Therefore it is not at all surprising that some people have preserved to-day the old pronunciation of certain French words.

It may be said perhaps that the French people make use of certain words which are not to be found in the French dictionary. Yes, it is so, and in the English language also. The French language is a living language, and needs to create new words once in a while to express certain states or conditions not existing before. For instance the word "poudrerie,"—to express a blizzard, is not to be found in the French dictionary, for there was no need of it in France, because there is no snow-storm there such as we have here. The word "poudrerie" is most significant and most beautiful, and the French even admire it.

Likewise the word "brunante" to express the time of the day when it is neither twilight nor dark; and so on with several other words. Although those words are not to be found in the French dictionary, they were never condemned by the French Academy, and they are too rich to be abandoned.

There are also several expressions like "bordée de neige" to express a light snow fall of short duration; those expressions may not be found in the modern or old French books, but they are not "patois" for they are too beautiful and too expressive to be condemned.

Nowhere in Canada can we find a "patois" spoken by the French people. The "French patois" exists only in the minds of those who have imagined it. Unfortunately, the hostile press of the country has magnified that monstrous error and it has helped to root it in the heart of the people who do not know the French language. The expression "French patois" has done as much harm to the French people of Canada as the expression "Parisian French" is doing harm to the English-speaking people of Ontario. The "Parisian French" which is supposed to be taught in the English schools of Ontario is simply a farce, and the laugh of all those who know the French language.

In Pain Court, as in all other places in Canada, the French people do speak neither the "Parisian French," nor "the French patois," nor the "Canadian-French" but they all speak the pure French language.