

Now, in our public of a little over eight million individuals, there are 2,225,000 French-Canadians whose tastes, likes and dislikes are not the same as those of scions of the English race, whose education is based upon systems applicable to their needs and in keeping with their ideal, whose legal and moral standards are measured according to a different conception of right and wrong, whose religious beliefs are those of their forefathers, whose literary tastes have been formed through their intellectual intercourse with France. They think less of money than we do, they have more regard for the amenities of life than we have. Taught by experience they are slow to give confidence, but once given it is complete.

They know us, while we do not know them and — it is useless to “pussy-foot” about saying it — *we do not like them*. We will not readily admit our animosity against the French-Canadians, yet, deep down in our hearts we know it exists.

It is an unreasoning animosity, an animosity which lacks common sense, an animosity which is difficult of analysis and explanation. Ask, as I have frequently done, to the many Francophobes why this sentiment exists, and you will get no conclusive answer.

There are elements in this animosity, nevertheless, which can be perceived on analysis. They are elements both grave and gay and may be itemized thus :

Passionate adoration of England, which has as its concomitant a belief that the French-Canadian is everything that the Englishman is not, and therefore to be disliked ;

A belief that the French-Canadian is densely ignorant and uncultured ;

A belief that French-Canadian politicians are uncouth and crooked ;

A belief that the French-Canadian is not as good as an Englishman — this being close kin to the old feeling in England that no frog-eater from France could possibly be as good as an Englishman.

Even the attitude, of the better class English-Canadian is that the French-Canadian is to be disdained and... tolerated.

With the members of the working class who have the French-Canadian aversion, the standard designation is “d—— Frenchman !”

Of course there are exceptions and some Englishmen, notably Dr. Drummond and Sir Gilbert Parker, have learned to understand and love those polite, hospitable, generous and improvident French-Canadians.

You must bear in mind that my remarks have not been said with a view of casting reflections on English-Canadians. It is a broad generalization of the characteristic attitude of the English-Canadian towards his French co-citizen — it is a hasty picture drawn simply to point out that this attitude is due to a misunderstanding of the French-Canadian mentality.

The French-Canadians, I will admit, are a funny lot of people to those who do not understand them. The French explorers have left behind them a legend unrivall-