

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 95

families protested, the truth was found out, and the Canadian Government had to pay an indemnity. One of the deported was a farmer possessing fifteen to twenty thousand francs in ready money. A single incident of that kind may cause an incalculable injury to Canada. There is already at Winnipeg, I am told, one French and one Dutch interpreter, the latter being able to serve the Flemish. If the French or Belgian emigration increases ever so little an Anglo-Franco-Flemish interpreter will probably be wanted at Halifax.

The most part of our agents abroad have brought their families with them, besides that, having lost contact with Canada, they would have to begin a new life, they would not come back to this country without great expense. It is then important that they be not displaced except for the exigencies of the service and that they be not dismissed but for incompetency or dishonesty. As their salary is not high, and the work which is expected from them is hardly possible in their old age, it would equally be expedient, after a certain age, if not to pay them a pension, to employ them at Ottawa as writers or otherwise, in the offices from which the outside agencies depend.

The Department should, in future appointments, require from the titulary not only a perfect knowledge of the society but also a good general education. All over Europe intelligent training is regarded as essential for the exercise of certain public charges, specially of those offering a certain diplomatic character.

The drawing up of official literature being, in a publicity campaign, an element of the very first importance, one can not too much deplore the common incompetency of the French writers or translators of the Department of the Interior.

I do not hesitate to say that the style of most of the official literary production of the Canadian Government intended for countries of French language are far from doing honour to Canada. There are some which Mr. Wiallard had to conceal in the cellars of the Paris agencies in order not to let them be seen by the French people, even if he had himself to translate the English original, at the cost of heavy work. Our agents have something else to do, however, and most of the time they are after all bound to use the material at their disposal. The wall map which we distribute in the schools of France is drawn up partly in French, partly in English, and partly in I do not know what. In France, where ridicule kills, a country like ours should take care not to couple its name with grotesque publications of which Patagonia or Nigeria would be ashamed. If Canada can not do better by itself, it has only to take as a model the tidy publications of the Argentina or of many other countries, which without pretending to be New France's, have all the same found out the means to address French people in French. I remember having seen a pamphlet issued by Western Australia for the Universal Exposition of 1900, which would make the publicists of your department one of shame, if they were not past all shame.

At the present moment most of the publications sent to the countries of French language are literal translations of works expressly written for English countries. That imprints in them, not to speak of the mere blunders of translation, a general exotic character which offends and disposes the French reader. Just as good translators are not produced suddenly, it is not the first comer who can address all the different peoples according to their own tastes, their traditions and even their prejudices—for that it requires more judgment than some of your subordinates seem to possess. For instance, in the *L'Ouest Canadian* a translation of the pamphlet entitled *Western Canada*, which is most extensively distributed by your agents, a reference is successively made to the testimony of A. Baumak, formerly of Indiana; Philip N. Taft, Ira Sutton, formerly of Iowa, and of dozens of others, but not of a single Belgian or French settler. Is it not evident that if it was not rather intended to frighten the French and Belgian settlers with the prospect of loneliness (which certainly is not the end in view), it would have been wise to quote the testimony of French and Belgian