

of mother earth prepared, and where it was needed watered by means of canals. Twice in the year the fruits of the field ripened. Besides bread, the chief articles of food were meal and butter cakes, different kinds of plants and fruits, and milk, prepared in a great variety of ways. Meat, roasted or boiled, was only enjoyed, for the most part, on great feast days and family celebrations. Drinking was generally indulged in. Abundantly was the water praised; it was the great panacea for human ills; by it health was brought to the body, and the days of man increased. To quench the thirst by means of it, as little occurred to the Vedic people as to the old Germans. They bathed in it; the cows drank of it; man had other drink, the Sura, a sort of brandy, prepared from corn or barley, and the

soul-rejoicing and care-dispelling Soma, which on account of its inspiring powers was celebrated as a god.

The wife in her house was inferior and subject to her husband; at the same time, however, had control over servants and slaves, over brothers-in-law and parents-in-law. The Vedic singer knows no tenderer relationship than that between husband and wife, and unfolds the high position of the latter, in that she, in common with the husband, presents the offering, and in the morning they together utter their prayer to the Eternal in the heavens. These relations are only conceivable where monogamy is the rule. In science and the arts the people of the Vedic times had as yet made but little progress. In one art only did they excel, viz.: the poetic.

THE FRENCH IN EASTERN ONTARIO.

BY D. F. H. WILKINS, B.A., BAC. APP. SCI.

WHERE the far-famed, historic Ottawa rolls its current seaward, not many miles from the hallowed ground where sixteen Frenchmen, four Algonquins and one Huron, under the indomitable D'Aulac des Armeaux, more than two centuries ago saved Canada; on the right bank, just as we leave Ontario for Quebec, lie the united counties of Russell and Prescott. Little known as are these counties, the former with its quarter million acres, and one-half available, the latter with over thirty-two thousand and more acreage, two-thirds available; little known with their population of thirty-eight thousand and twenty-two, of which nearly thirty thousand look to France and not to England as their mother land; little known, save for their famous Caledonia and Plantagenet springs, where

sulphur, saline and burning waters rise almost side by side from the Cambro-Silurian rock; little known, save for the unexplained botanical phenomenon of white-wood, *Tiriodendron tulipifera*, and of dogwood, *Cornus florida*, trees in West Hawkesbury township, the only present known localities of these trees being the north shore of Lake Erie, and, rarely, the south shore of Lake Ontario, from Niagara westward; little known until within the last few months, during that period they have acquired a celebrity of their own.

On the 16th day of March, of the present year, M. Evanturel, M.P.P. for those united counties, rose in his place in the Legislature, and, seconded by M. Robillaud, moved: "That there be laid before the House copies of all correspondence,