

Horace D. Taft, Esq.

There would be no difficulty in placing your boys in other than highly educated families, but the result would, I am afraid, be somewhat similar to that which would happen to a French boy sent to the East Side of New York to learn classical English, perhaps not quite so bad, but bad enough.

It may very well be that you may receive a few recommendations from other sources, but for the reasons I have given I am very much afraid that you run a considerable risk of failure. The foregoing remarks are the result of a conference between myself and the Honourable Athanase David, Minister of Education of the Province of Quebec, who is himself a French-Canadian. We have between us a fairly wide acquaintance and are unable to think of anyone suitable or willing to help out in your scheme; this in itself is a fair test.

The Minister made a suggestion which I should have hesitated to put forward had he not done so, but in which I quite concur. At McGill we have maintained for some years a French Summer School which has had quite remarkable success. I can only say that boys whose knowledge is such as you indicate to be possessed by them, should be able to speak French fluently at the end of a five weeks course. The University gives credit for a whole term's work in French, provided a high enough standard is reached, and I have no doubt that the boys could stock this away for credit at an American college.

I do not know whether your boys are old enough to be sent here by themselves, but the students in the Summer School are properly looked after and are under a moderate amount of supervision.

I send you under separate cover a few copies of the course which you will note opens on June 25th. I should be glad to hear whether this would meet your requirements.

Yours faithfully,

Director, Dept. of Ex.-M. R.