

become of the poor unfortunate man. Another abuse consists in speculating on the exchange of money, the steamship agents seldom taking less than 5f. 25 for one dollar, while the Parisian branch of the National Bank is satisfied with 5f. 18. The protestations which our agent repeatedly uttered, and which have already had the result of obtaining for the emigrant intended for the west the permission of a ten days' stop in the Province of Quebec, would have still more weight if they could be sanctioned by the suppression of the premium. I shall add that if, in France as elsewhere, the attraction of the premium may sometimes induce an agent to transgress the law of the country, the French agent on the other hand, is less than others tempted to send to Canada the scums of the French society, each French emigrant being supposed to carry with him his judiciary status.

Our agent reports that he often has demands of Canadian produce for school museums, he should be in a position to promptly and favourably comply with such demands.

Besides the above special recommendations, relative either to France or to Belgium, you will allow me, sir, to make you some others which may apply to both countries.

I hear from the agents at Paris and Antwerp, that the persons who directly apply to your department, in the French, Flemish or Dutch language, for information on Canada, usually receive their answer in English. It is useless to observe how little this process is apt to inform and draw foreigners, specially the Frenchman who had imagined that the French was one of the official languages of our country. In order to answer to every body in his own language, at least those of whom, as the Belgian and the French, we specially solicit to emigrate to Canada, it would be sufficient to have a couple of good linguists like Mr. Treau de Coeli in your department.

The Department of Commerce, in drafting its contracts with the navigation companies, should consult with the Department of the Interior with a view to the improvement of the conditions of transportation of the emigrants. Before this year, the Allan Company, which however has received from the Canadian Government, something like \$130,000 per year, and whose subsidy has since been, it appears, carried to \$200,000 a year, had no French cooks, and to tell the truth no interpreters on its ships, and for a twelve or fifteen days voyage, was charging the same price as other companies for a seven or eight days trip. A still more serious matter, the first sailing from Havre was delayed until the middle or the end of May, and the farm labourers recruited during the winter in view of the opening of the works, getting tired of waiting, were renewing their engagements in France. This year the *Sardinian* and the *Pomeranian* have been replaced by the *Ionian* and the *Scotian*, larger and more rapid. It appears that they have engaged French cooks on these new boats, and that the first sailing has taken place on April 27, but these improvements, besides incomplete of a rival service by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. I cannot for my part understand why Canada expects the protection of its interests only from competition, when it has the right and is in a position to dictate its conditions.

There should be official and authorized interpreters, not only on subsidized steamers, but in all the landing ports and on all the railways where French is not usually spoken. One cannot realize the annoyance of every kind caused to the emigrants of French language by the insufficiency or even the total want of this service, in a country where they were told that they could everywhere be understood in their own language. I shall give only one example, Edouard Claude, his wife and nine children, and Eleonore LeRoy, with four children, from Orgeo, in the province of Luxemburg (in Belgium) having started for Halifax on the *Canada*, of the Dominion Line, on May 1, 1910, had so much to suffer from the totally strange customs of the ship that they landed with their eyes all reddened for having wept. They wanted to explain themselves, but there again nobody could understand French and they were sent back to Antwerp as affected with Trachoma. The Belgian Government and the deported