

3 GEORGE V., A. 1913

'Mr. Wiallard had also asked from the department the authorization for Mr. Geoffrion and Montpetit, connected with the commissariat, to give about fifty familiar talks or lectures before the Chambers of Commerce as also in agriculture schools. Those lectures had a certain success but they entailed rather great expenses.'

1911.—Almost complete inaction, imposed by the diplomatic protests of the French government.

1912.—Resumption of the propaganda in school circles, in the month of March after the distribution of 4,500 atlases each containing ten illustrated cards, to as many teachers, with the promise of wall maps to the lecturers and atlases to the pupils, Mr. Wiallard had already obtained five hundred lectures and could count on three hundred more, from then till the holidays. Our agent adds that those lectures are given not only in the classes, but most of the time in presence of the parents, and always in the best desirable circles; that in many cases the pupils make compositions after the lecture.

A work so often interrupted, and so incoherent, cannot evidently bear the fruits which could be expected from a more persistent and better regulated campaign. That it has nevertheless carried the figure of the French emigration to Canada from 431 as it was in 1901-02 up to 2,041 in 1910-11, is the most eloquent answer to be made to those who pretend that a movement of French emigration to Canada is impossible. The figure of 2,041 is even inferior to the true figure, and many French emigrants come to Canada as first passengers, and a certain number of foreign emigrants, who come through Paris are not counted by that agency.

In order to strictly conform to law, the work of our agent, presently, would be reduced to make Canada known by the disinterested, but necessarily cautious, intermedium of the teachers these latter, could not in fact incite to emigration without subjecting themselves to serious annoyances to advertise the address of the agency in the petty ads of a couple of newspapers of Paris, without saying a word of emigration, and to answer verbally or in writing, to applicants for information. It is already something, we must specially appreciate the collaboration, precarious to say the truth as regards the state schools, as it could cease on a nod of the Minister, which Mr. Wiallard has been able to obtain in the body of teachers. Is it to say that we could not do more?

I have already pointed out how we could turn to account the authorization of the steamship agencies for the spreading of information concerning Canada. Allow me, Mr. the General Superintendent, to indicate to you some other steps to undertake or attempt.

A French gentleman, who has been one of the founders of the *Canadienne*, and who is still one of the leading minds, I should say the souls of this valiant society, and from whom I was asking what he thought our Government might and should do to increase French emigration to Canada, pointed out to me amongst others:—

*First. The periodical delegation to France, of French settlers.*

On this point at least, my interlocutor was agreeing with Mr. Wiallard. I notice a letter which our agent wrote you on the 22nd October, 1907:—

'Although, for reasons well known to you, you must not send any more agents like those who transiently came here, I believe it would now be most necessary to seriously consider a plan which I have long ago submitted to your department. That plan consists in the sending to France of a dozen delegates chosen one half in the province of Quebec, and the other half in the West, among the French settlers who have succeeded and to whom you would pay a second-class passage from their residing point to the place where they came from. No mission would be entrusted to them. They would go back among their old friends without any other object than to spend there two or three months, that is the