

nearly two hours and concluded in favor of annexation. He depicted the present position of the province and claimed that the French Canadians in the United States were more prosperous than in Canada. "We must annex the whole country to save the race" was the leading theme of his discourse. Emigration was killing the French influence in Canada. Annexation would save it. At the conclusion of his remarks six young girls gaily attired appeared on the stage with a flag, which Mr. Rouilliard claimed should be that of the new State of Quebec. The flag was the tricolor reversed with wreaths of maple leaves and stars and cross. The lecture was repeatedly applauded.

---

(*The Montreal Daily Star*, March 18, 1893)

Mr. J. B. Rouilliard gave a lecture last evening under the auspices of the Club National in their hall on Notre Dame street on "Annexation." Mr. Wilfrid Larose, vice-president of the Club, occupied the chair and the hall was well filled, many ladies being in the audience. Mr. Rouilliard declared himself openly in favor of annexation to the United States, stating that the sooner that change would be brought about the better it would be for Canada. As it was, thousands of Canadians emigrated every year to the Republic and found good homes there. The French-Canadians of the United States preserved their language and customs and were every day becoming more and more influential. Confederation, he claimed, had been a failure, as the provisions made for the protection of the rights of the minorities were entirely disregarded. He instanced the case of Manitoba where French-Canadians denied separate schools and the official recognition of the French language. Canada was now entirely at the mercy of a number of capitalists who kept the people poor. The immigration policy of the Dominion Government would soon fill up the country with people from foreign countries, while the native population was slowly disappearing. It was better that they should bring their country with them into the Union than leave it behind. The lecturer concluded by introducing some young girls carrying a tricolor flag reversed, with wreaths of maple leaves and stars. This, he declared, would be a suitable flag for Canada if it should decide to join the Union. Though certain portions of the address were applauded, very little enthusiasm was manifested.