

above affirmation, "I would like, first to hear someone define the French accent for me. I know the Parisian accent well and, still, I know that the accent of Faubourg Saint-Germain is not the same as that of Montmartre. I also know the Norman accent, the Alsatian, and the Marseillais. It is possible that there is a Canadian accent, and this would merely be the accent of another province of France".<sup>1</sup> In fact, each province of France has its particular accent; the Swiss and Belgians have, likewise, their own. Could our adversaries tell us the exact place where French is spoken with this savour they reproach us for not having? Apropos of our accent, would I be permitted to give the opinion of a French writer who knew our country well and wrote a deeply compiled book on the history of Canada? This is what Mr. Eugène Révilaud wrote some years ago, "The language of the first (cultivated class) does not differ from that which is spoken in the polished society of our country, and it is better protected against the invasion of Parisian slang. . . . As to the people, it seems to me, taking it all in all, they speak French more correctly than the generality of our peasants. . . . The language of the Canadians seemed to me extremely pure of accent and there is no doubt that a Canadian of average culture coming to Paris would get in tune more easily with the French Theatre which, rightly or wrongly, has the reputation of being the seat of the traditions of pure French pronunciation, than a Picard or a Franc-Comtois, not to speak of the Gascons, the Auvergnats or the Provençaux."<sup>2</sup>

Are the journalists who accuse us of speaking an old and degenerated language, good judges in the matter? Do they know French sufficiently to express such a severe judgment against us? We do not think so, and they would do more useful work, perhaps, in attempting to purify the English used in certain Provinces of the Dominion, and what Lord Grey one day likened to a most detestable and

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in *Le Soleil*, Québec, March 1st 1918.

<sup>2</sup> *Histoire du Canada*, p. 523.