

Address Delivered by Mr. Francis H. Clergue.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen: I have not yet fully recovered from the effects of a warm homecoming reception which I received at the generous hands of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Their enthusiastic plaudits and flattering compliments still keep me awake nights, but beneath the flow of their eloquent praise, I discovered an under-current of complaint and reproach. In fact in the case of some of my closer acquaintances it was said, with no effort at concealment, that I was in one respect unworthy of citizenship at Sault Ste. Marie. I was and too long had remained a single man. For too long I had been apparently oblivious to those charms and delights afforded only by the society of the gentler sex which form the true essence of life. In self-defense I feel bound to confide in you the motives which have won for me this unhappy reputation, since I shall be too much distressed if my friends in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan were to add their criticisms to those of their confreres on the Canadian side. I confess now, I am and have for a long while been, in love. My condition in this respect is embarrassing, for I am and have been in love with two damsels. The charms of these ladies seem to be incomparable and almost identical. In complexion, in stature, in physical and intellectual attributes they seem equally charming. When I am enjoying the society of one I am content; in the companionship of the other I am happy.