

"The French government demands", which entirely changes the sense of the expression.

In several remarks this afternoon I think the Secretary of State and the hon. member for Labelle intimated that it was difficult to get certain translations made which they wanted to have. That seems to me most extraordinary. I hold in my hand a book written by J. Lucien Hudon, of the Département des brevets, entitled *L'Automobilisme et Radio*. He is evidently an authority on the subject. I want also to quote another authority in the employ of the department. I have, too, a book by M. Daviault, from whom I have already quoted, and at page 21 of this work, entitled *Questions de Langage*, I find the following:

(Translation)

No one can appreciate Francis I, unless he transports himself in thought to his period.

This shows how specialized these translators must be in the particular work they perform. I have also a book by S. Marioni, who as everyone knows has written several works on this subject and who is also a *docteur de la Sorbonne*. He is, I think, a fair authority on this subject and is also employed by the department. Now, there is no dictionary intended especially for translations; for as I have already said the translator must know the mentality of the peoples from whom he is translating. Let me give another example that possibly will come even closer home to us. Many hon. members have no doubt read a book written by the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Bouchard), *Vieilles Choses et Vieilles Gens*. The title of that book, in English, is *Other Days, Other Ways*. I give these two to show how very different they are, and yet the mental idiom expresses the same *pensée*. I have read this book both in English and in French, and I can tell you that if you want to appreciate its sentiments you must read it in French, the language in which it was written.

Nobody wants a mechanical translation. Moreover, there is this fact that impresses me very much: I cannot see how any member of the government could support this bill. The ministers are responsible not only to their constituencies but to Canada for the translations that come from their departments. Every cabinet minister has his own personal peculiarities, and if he wants a translation made properly in his department he must call upon a man who knows the minister, who knows the department, and who is familiar with the subjects he has to deal with. Suppose this department is organized and a head is appointed to supervise all translations coming therefrom. The Secretary of State has a

document to be translated and he calls up the Bureau for Translations and asks for a man. Possibly the subject relates to agriculture, and of course the bureau, following railroad rules, first in first out, in order to divide up the work, so that no one will be overloaded and everyone will have the same proportion, sends out a man who probably has taken two years at university in the study of medicine. This man knows all the medical terms, and he is called upon to translate something relating entirely to agriculture. There will certainly be a good many technical terms quite unknown to him, and he accordingly produces an erroneous translation. What will be the state of affairs if the minister happens to be a gentleman who is acquainted with one language only? Vice versa, suppose the Minister of Health calls for a translator to give him a translation of something dealing with medical questions. He calls up the bureau and as translators 5, 6 and 7 are out, No. 8 is assigned to this work. He is quite familiar with agricultural terms but he knows nothing whatever about the terms used in medicine. Could anything be more ridiculous?

I will go a step further. Let us take mining, for instance. We are talking a good deal about mining development in this country, and if there is one subject more than another in which a thorough knowledge of technical terms is called for on the part of the translator, if an accurate translation is to be produced, that subject is mining. But if you happen to get a translator who is expert in rendering medical terms and put him to work on the translation of a document in which there are all sorts of mining technicalities, I do not know what sort of translation you can expect. Or take the House of Commons. Just imagine the difference between the work of a man translating a speech made by the Prime Minister of Canada and the work of a translator giving us in French a quiet speech made by the Minister of Pensions and National Health. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that in order to produce an accurate translation a man must know the speaker whom he is translating; he must know the type of speech that man is going to deliver. Then he can give a fairly accurate translation and one which will, while not changing the sense, convey to our French Canadian citizens an exact replica of the speech made in English, or, on the other hand, an exact reproduction of a speech delivered in French.

I submit therefore that this subject is most serious—I think—more serious than was contemplated when the bill was drafted. In reply to the hon. member for Hochelaga a few minutes ago, I believe the Secretary of State said that