

English Speaking Union

September 8, 1924.

The Hon. Albert Halstead,
Consul General of the United States,
Drummond Bldg.

My dear Mr. Halstead:

I am very much obliged for your letter of 5th inst. enclosing the copy of the letter from Major Putman, and I have been very much interested in reading it. The matter is one which requires a great deal of consideration, both as to the desirability of taking it up, and the manner in which it is to be dealt with.

Our French-speaking citizens regard their language as an almost sacred birthright, and certainly feel that it is an absolute essential to the maintenance of their culture and the racial existence guaranteed to them in 1760. It is for this reason that I feel a little pessimistic about the possibility of persuading them that the "English-Speaking Union" does not aim at the abolition of French as official language for the medium of expression.

This University has consistently aimed at the promotion of unity between French and English, and we could not afford to support any movement which would the good feeling between these two, unless we have the strongest assurance from the most reliable sources that our objects would be thoroughly understood.

I hope that you will not think that I am in any way attempting to throw cold water on what is doubtless a plan with great possibilities of good. I only want to make it clear that the issues involved are of such importance that very considerable thought must be devoted to the question.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.