

remain what remains of their "politeness" of old — not perhaps in the kind of people which may be met by the high or low officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but in the real good French-Canadians; and these, it must be admitted, are to be found still in the intellectual and modest spheres, or even in the tool shops or on the farm, rather than among the plundering politicians or the *bourgeois cossus*, who meet the English-speaking *parvenus* on boards of directorship or in so-called "fashionable clubs".

Now the sentiment which that typical Englishman, of the overbearing class — and it is legion — has expressed in his blunt fashion, is, in the mind of the average French-Canadian, entertained, though seldom expressed in such plain words, by a more or less numerous category of English-speaking Canadians. He feels that he is looked upon as being a "nuisance" — and he resents it, even when he is courted at election times.

In almost every place he goes and meets his English-speaking neighbours, upon most of the occasions he has of dealing with them, if he ventures to make use of his language he seldom meets but the coldest reception and the scantest measure of courtesy — when he is not subjected to insolence or contumely.

This I state after repeated experiences, by myself and others, in banks, in offices of various kinds, in stores and other private concerns, right here in Montreal, — not to speak of public offices and railway carriages, including those of the Intercolonial Railway — the "Canadian people's road".

It is an actual fact that a French-Canadian, speaking French in London — I mean London, England, of course — has more chance of receiving a courteous and intelligible reply, than in any English town of Canada, and even in many English sections of Montreal.

It may be thought that I insist too much on this question of language. I do so purposely, because it is essentially *the* source most constantly productive of misunderstanding and frictions. It is ever so in every mixed community; it was and is still so in Belgium, for example. But there, at least, people of both races have made an honest and intelligent attempt to reach a solution of the problem, and they have succeeded largely.

What the average French-Canadian cannot understand is the neglect or the unwillingness of most English-Canadians to acquire the knowledge of the language of one-third of the people of Canada. He still less comprehends that the English colony of Montreal should be so *backward* as not to make an effort to understand and speak the language of the vast majority of their fellow-citizens, especially when he compares their lacking in that respect to the efforts he has made to acquire a fair knowledge of English.

To the argument that English is far more useful than French in the conduct of business and the acquisition of wealth, he replies that business and money are not all, nor even the main things in national and social life. He knows that all well bred men and women in the civilised world consider that their education is not complete, unless it includes the knowledge of the highest form of human word in modern times, as Greek was in days of old. He thinks that apart from all national con-