

A third of all Canadians speak French. They write plays and novels and love letters in French. They make movies in French. They think in French. But their French is not the French of Paris. It is the French of Montreal, Quebec City, Trois Pistoles and Ottawa. We are indebted to Messrs. Sinclair Robinson and Donald Smith who have just published, through Macmillan of Canada, A Practical Handbook of Canadian French or Manual Pratique Du Francais Canadien. It shows how varied French can be, and it is divided into practical sections: "Cuisine"; "Maison, Batiments" (Home, Buildings); "Quincaillerie" (Hardware); "Ville et Spectacles" (City and Entertainment); and so forth. We have chosen a few extracts beginning with the seventh section, "L'Amour" (Love), to indicate the magnificent sweep of the work. The words and phrases are the ones found most often in offices, shops and among informal friends rather than at college seminars.

French Canada Has A Tongue of Its Own

[CANADIAN]

[FRENCH]

[ENGLISH]

L'amour (Love)

aller voir les filles	courtiser les jeunes filles	to go out with girls
faire manger de l'avoine a quelqu'un	supplanter quelqu'un comme amoureux	to steal someone's girl
vieux boque	vert galant	elderly lady killer, gay dog
loup, maquereau	coureur, seducteur	wolf
marcou	entreteneur	lover
sauteux de clotures	don Juan	woman chaser
tripoteux	peloteur	to cuddle someone
etre trotteuse	etre un peu coureuse	to be boy crazy, to be a flirt

Le Temps (The Weather)

abatage de pluie	rafale de pluie	cloudburst
bordée de neige	forte tombée de neige	heavy snowfall
doux-temps	temps relativement doux suivant un grand froid	mild spell
été des sauvages	été de la Saint-Martin	Indian summer
temps des sucres	période du printemps où on fabrique le sucre d'érable	maple syrup time

Le Bureau (The Office)

affle-crayon	taille-crayon	pencil sharpener
agrofe	trombone	paper clip
dactylo	machine à écrire	typewriter
faire du bureau	travailler dans un bureau	to do office work
papier ligné	papier réglé	lined paper
saucer une plume	tremper une plume	to dip a pen