

show you that after all there is not so much affinity between the modern Frenchman from France and the French Canadian of to-day, I would only have to quote what this gentleman states in his book. Indeed I would not need to quote what he said but only to quote from some of the speeches which have been delivered by my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). There is not such a great affinity and I am pleased to say so before you, Mr. Speaker, between the modern Frenchman from France, and the French Canadian of to-day. There is quite a gulf dividing them and the differences are plainly shown in this book. Speaking about Canada and France he says :

The present political relations between France and Canada, since the conquest of a century and a half ago, are characteristic because there is a complete absence of any equivocal questions between the two. On the one hand the French Canadians do not desire to come back to us. Abandoned, left to their own resources, they have magnificently fought in order to create for themselves a place under the sun of God, in the new society where destiny had brought them. They have succeeded and to-day they are well enough accustomed to the present arrangement to be freely and frankly satisfied with it. It would be very hard for them to readjust themselves to the ideas and the ideals of modern France. On the other hand—

And this comes as another illustration of what I stated a moment ago, that the French government itself, the French nation itself, is not desirous of sending its sons abroad and especially to Canada.

On the other hand, our government is not labouring under any illusions. It does not ignore the state of mind I have just recalled, and it admits freely that such a state of mind is both natural and logical as in good faith it believes that our political domination and prestige in North America belongs to the past and that it would be chimerical to attempt to revive it. At no moment have we ever thought or dreamt of making the conquest of our old colony, and that old colony in the same way has never thought of being reconquered by us.

Speaking of what relations there are existing, the writer says that the French Canadian could cultivate the French literature, the French language, could revere and love the old French history, but that is all. M. Siegfried adds :

There is a rapprochement which we must make with a very delicate touch. For many reasons we are too different from the French Canadians to understand each other. As I have stated, a whole fraction of Canadian society is afraid of our influence, and I must admit that this is quite natural and quite logical. Can we indeed ask devout Catholics, men who are moderate in their political views and who politically belong to the English school, to come to us and receive their inspirations from a country politically the most advanced in Europe? It is not only distance, but also time which separates us, and we would be wrong in believing that it is possible to go back a number of years after so long a divorce between modern France and French Canada

Such is the opinion expressed by an eminent Frenchman who has travelled in our country, who is known among French Canadians, both clergy and laity, and remember that the views which he expresses in this book which I now hold in my hand, are those expressed by four-fifths of the people of France. So, Mr. Speaker, I for one would view with pleasure, any efforts this government might make towards stimulating French immigration, though I would favour such a movement I will never claim as some of my hon. friends do claim, that there is such an affinity, such a similarity of ideals between modern France and French Canada, that we ought to hope for a large influx of French immigrants. In the first place, we will not be able to get that influx because the laws of France are against it, the French birthrate is against it, the tendencies of modern Frenchmen are against it. It is like fighting a windmill to shout right and left in the French Canadian centres that this government is not doing its duty towards the French Canadian population in neglecting to promote French immigration into this country. No, Mr. Speaker, this government since 1896, by the literature distributed broadcast in France, by the appointment of agents in France, by the subsidizing of a line to the extent of \$100,000 between Havre and Montreal in the summer and Havre and Halifax in winter, has done its duty towards the French Canadian population in the province of Quebec. Now, Sir, I heard a moment ago my hon. friend declaring that the French Canadians did not receive fair-play at the hands of the Department of the Interior in the matter of transportation from the east to the west.

Mr. BOURASSA. I beg your pardon, I stated that Canadians moving from the eastern provinces had to pay more for their fares than foreigners.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Did not my hon. friend state that an elector from his county had been refused some advantages, and was I not justified in inferring that my hon. friend meant that the people of the province of Quebec—of Ontario, if you please, of the lower provinces, if you please—were not treated as well as foreigners? That claim has been answered by my hon. friend from Strathcona (Mr. W. McIntyre). This government does not provide, in its immigration policy for the moving of one Canadian from the east to the west, it only provides for bringing in people from foreign countries. But I say this, does my hon. friend in his plea for the people of the province of Quebec, ignore that the leaders, the natural leaders, of the French Canadian element, are very averse to sending our compatriots from Quebec into the western provinces? I put that question straight to my hon. friend. Does he deny that the clergy in the province of Quebec as a rule are opposed to such a movement, because