

3 GEORGE V., A. 1913

in his own country shall in a few months dissipate his savings and shall be reduced to poverty, if he does not happen to have on the spot relations or friends to advise and assist him.

An emigrant of French language who shall on landing at Quebec or Montreal find a remunerative employment (wages of farm servants in Quebec are now ten to fifteen hundred francs per year, including board, lodging and washing and most of the time clothing) not only will not lose his savings, but will at the end of the year have increased them, familiarized himself with the country, have probably, here and there, picked up a few English words, in short, shall be more apt to settle definitely, whether in Quebec or in the West. More content with his lot, he shall be, with his compatriots of the old country, a better propagandist and the complaints about the optimism of our prospectuses shall become less numerous.

But a not smaller result will be to enrich a province which the want of help labour greatly contributes so to keep in an economic inferiority.

It is reckoned that there is presently from thirty to fifty thousand European domestic servants in Ontario, while in Quebec, where I repeat, the wants are the same, a few hundred could hardly be found, and nearly all English, the measure which I suggest would make matters even.

The most part of the French and Belgium emigrants who have taken service with French Canadian farmers would afterwards start for the west. Some others, specially those owning more money would purchase farms in Eastern Canada, where they would become careless and acting by routine people so many professors of domestic ingenuity and intensive farming.

There exists in every parish an agricultural circle, and in every country an agricultural society which would only be too happy I suppose, to make use of the good services of your placing agents.

The competent persons with whom I had the advantage of consulting, agree with me that, with a good placing system Canada could procure every year, in Belgium alone, thousands of farm servants who would mostly be able, after a very short, time, to acquire a farm of their own. The Canadian Pacific Railway authorities in London, who manage that company's navigation service between Antwerp and Canada, and whom I have questioned about it, are ready, for their part to give you all the necessary co-operation. It would perhaps be more difficult to directly make our wants known in France, but the moment that the Frenchman emigrating to Canada would, by the wisdom of our Government, be protected against disappointments, annoyances of every sort, which result from differences of customs, language, economic way of living, it would not take long to be known in France as elsewhere.

A placing system would not be complete without creating reception houses at Quebec and Montreal.

Such is, Mr. General Superintendent, the result of my observations. I shall complete my report by saying that, in my opinion, if the Government does not intend to soon establish in Belgium a general agency or Commissariat to which would naturally belong the direction or at least the control of the emigration propaganda in that country, and if the representation of Canada in France is reorganized as suggested by me, it would perhaps be expedient to eventually connect your agency or agencies with the Paris Commissariat. The relative community of language and the easy means of communication (trains go from Paris to Brussels in three hours) would allow to the Paris Commissioner a more effective direction or control than could ever be exercised from London.

Wishing that my work should be of some help to you in the conscientious fulfilment of your duty, I tender you the homage of my highest regard, and I subscribe myself.

Your devoted servant,

(Sgd.) OLIVAR ASSELIN.