

## Language and Progress.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I happened to pick up your issue of October 18th, 1906, lying on the library table, amongst other periodicals, when my eye was caught by the editorial, "London to Halifax by Rail." It was pleasant reading up to the last section, when my French blood was warmed up by the Anglo-Saxon arrogance with which the writer depreciates French Canada and the amazing ignorance of the people to whom he condescends to extend his pity. I am particularly well acquainted with the section of French Canada in question, and for truth's sake I must speak.

Of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, the site of the Macdonald Agricultural College, he says: "On every hand is heard the French patois." Oh! Mr. Editor, the French language a patois! A patois to the writer, it may be, since, no doubt, he does not know French. For if he did, he would know that French is one of the most polished languages, one of the richest in all kinds of literary works, and for centuries the most widely spoken in the world. Now a patois, as everybody knows, is "an illiterate and mostly local dialect." And if the writer means that the people of Ste. Anne, or the French-Canadians at large, have corrupted French into a patois, he is wrong again, for it is admitted by philologists that the French-Canadians have preserved the pure French of the seventeenth century. They don't speak Parisian, but they speak French.

"What a pity!" he cannot help feeling, says he. Here are two million people, multiplying fast, in most respects alien to the customs and impulses of their Anglo-Saxon compatriots, an overwhelming majority unable to speak or read English. It is my turn to exclaim: "What arrogance!" Who has constituted the Anglo-Saxon customs and impulses the standard customs and impulses of this country? True, true it is: the rural people of French Canada, as a rule, do not build as large and comfortable houses as their Anglo-Saxon compatriots. They do not wear as fine clothes. They may not be quite as far advanced in the technique of agriculture. They do not strive as strenuously after the almighty dollar. In a word, they are not so strongly bent on seeking the comfort and wealth this world can yield; but the so oft trumpeted Anglo-Saxon fair play should judge them from their own principles. They are a people strongly imbued with Christian faith. Considering this life merely as a stepping-stone to a better one to come, they are satisfied with a sufficiency of wealth. They do not slave beyond measure after a fortune; and, hence, their apparent lack of thrift and go-ahead, to an Anglo-Saxon eye. Yet, a further remark of the writer, that "in the main, they are away behind times," is undeserved. I invite the writer to step off his train, and travel with a horse and buggy through the Province of Quebec, and he will see with his own eyes the astonishing improvements in agricultural methods, under the influence of agricultural circles, conventions and periodicals. He would hardly believe his ears that such progressive work is done in the French patois. However, Mr. Editor, a good redeeming feature they have, these much-maligned French-Canadians, which would not disgrace the stock of customs and impulses of any race, not even of the Anglo-Saxon race: They are not guilty of race suicide. Their code of private morals is that of the Gospel of Christ, which they may read but little, but observe much; hence their wonderful increase, which seems to alarm so much our writer. "Two millions of people multiplying fast," he says, and bidding fair, I may say, to win the race of supremacy over Eastern Canada. What a pity for Canada!

Then our tourist goes on philosophizing on the woes attending a secluded community. His principles are quite true, but I must say I had a good laugh over the pitiful miscarriage of the whole argument. "Woe to the small community that lives within itself," says he of the French-Canadians. Is he talking about some forlorn band of Indians quartered in some lone Reservation somewhere on the coast of Labrador? The French-Canadians a small community! Why, they are two millions, nearly half of the total population of the Dominion. The Province of Quebec, mainly the home of French-Canadians, is a little larger than Ste. Anne de Bellevue; and it counts among its little villages the little town of Montreal, the Metropolis of Canada, if you please.

But the French-Canadians don't know English, which throughout America is the medium for the dissemination of progressive thought, and hence they are removed from the ever-increasing influences of high-class periodicals, outside travel, and leading platform talent; therefore, they are bound to lag behind. Such is the burden of a couple of paragraphs of the article. Indeed? Is it the exclusive privilege of the English language to possess high-class periodicals, to afford the so-called outside travel, and to foster leading platform talent? It would be worth the writer's trouble to learn the French patois, and enlarge the horizon of his intellectual vision. I daresay that little community of two million French-Canadians would be well supplied with high-class periodicals and platform talent, had they chosen to live by themselves, and ignore the English world, for their French patois is pretty well equipped with high-class periodicals and platform talent. But, as a matter of fact, it is a mistake to claim that the overwhelming majority of French-Canadians are unable to speak or read English; but one cannot know that from a train dashing through the country, even if he makes a short stop at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. English is taught at school, and much spoken by the people,

principally where there is a somewhat mixed population. This is true to the extent of arousing the fear of some fretful champions of the French race, that it may eventually be engulfed by the overspreading Anglo-Saxon maelstrom.

I will conclude with thanks to our writer, that he finds the French people not an undesirable people. For fear that the reader might imagine that we must be a lot of fresh imported immigrants from some over-congested city of Europe, I will remind him that the soil of Canada had already been conquered to civilization by the French-Canadians at the sweat of their brow and at the cost of their blood when the first Anglo-Saxon set his foot on it; therefore, in this country the French-Canadians are truly the hosts, and the Anglo-Saxons the guests. It ill fits the guests to decry their hosts. However, waiving our rights of hosts, we are quite willing, even desirous, to live with our fellow Anglo-Saxon citizens in the most friendly relations, but pray, whenever you look at us, take off your colored glasses of prejudice, and you will see us as we are.

A FRENCH-CANADIAN READER.

Wikwemikong, Ont.

[Note.—We regret that the point of the remarks referred to should have been misunderstood, for certainly no reproach or opprobrium was intended in anything written. It may surprise our correspondent to learn that the writer of the article to which he takes exception, boasts not a drop of Anglo-Saxon nor yet of Celtic blood, but belongs to a race whose tongue is little heard in Canada—though it is the channel through which a great body of the world's advancement has found expression—and frankly avows the conviction that the less it is heard the more desirable, not only for those who are giving it up, but for the Dominion at large. Moreover, his acquaintance with French-Canadians is not confined to a stop-over at Ste. Anne, and he has, in conversation, invariably resented aspersions cast upon French-Canadians, because of their race and religion. He bears them no prejudice, but regards them as brothers in the great Canadian Dominion. In philosophizing about the disadvantage of Quebec's adhering to the French language, nothing was said that would not apply equally to Ontario, were conditions reversed.

If this were a French-speaking continent, and Ontario alone an English-speaking Province, with no current literature available but her own productions and those of remote England, then would this Province be handicapped. Of course, language is not everything, but dissimilarity of language is a grave disadvantage to Canada, as all economists and students of history know. Whether the tongue spoken in Quebec is a patois or not, we are willing to leave uncontended. It is not the Parisian French of to-day any more than Old English is the English of to-day. It is peculiar to Quebec, and that is all we meant to say. That some of the French-Canadians are progressing, was remarked with pleasure, and the fact was emphasized in the paper's report of the Ottawa Exhibition. That they are not guilty of race suicide stands to their credit. That they are contented and wholesome-living is also true; but that Quebec is what she would be if more closely in touch with the educational influences of the continent by which she is surrounded, few will believe. There is a common ground on which we in Canada should all agree—French, English, Irish, Scottish, German, Dutch, Yankee, and all. While it is unnatural and absurd to expect a Frenchman to feel a tender regard for Mother England, or an Englishman to sympathize with the traditions of French Canada, all may unite on a common ground of Canadian patriotism. It is on this ground that we appeal to our brother on behalf of the English language, not because it is the tongue of Great Britain, under whose liberal ideals and institutions we thrive, but because it is the prevailing language of the Dominion, to say nothing of the great Republic to the south, with which we have so much literary and commercial intercourse.—Editor.]

## Ontario Provincial Winter Fair.

The prize-list of the Fair, which will be held at Guelph, December 10th to 14th, 1906, has been distributed to all exhibitors whose names are in the Secretary's hands. Persons who are feeding high-class stock, but who have not exhibited at the Fair, should send for a prize-list. The classification provides good prizes for the different breeds of beef and dairy cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, also for farm seeds and potatoes. The various departments of the Fair, and the amount of prizes for each, are as follows: Live Stock, \$6,000.00; Judging Competition, \$200.00; Seeds, \$500.00; Dressed Poultry, \$300.00; Live Poultry, \$2,000.00; Poultry Special Prizes, \$1,000.00. This makes a total of \$10,000.00 to be distributed as prizes. Exhibitors will note particularly that entries should be sent to the Secretary before November 24th. Entry forms will be found in each prize-list. Any person wishing a list will receive one free upon application to A. P. Westervelt, Secretary, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

## Favor Stallion Inspection.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At a public meeting, held at Lansdowne, Ont., on Wednesday evening, Oct. 31st, Dr. Sinclair and Mr. H. S. Arkell, the two Commissioners appointed by the Ontario Government to canvass the horsemen of Leeds and other counties of Ontario, were present, representing the above county. The meeting was unanimously in favor of a law providing for compulsory inspection and licensing of all stallions advertised or travelled for service, the requirements for a license to be freedom from hereditary unsoundness that would be conveyed to the progeny, and all to have registered pedigree. The meeting was largely attended; there were those from Mallorytown, Escott, Caintown and South Leeds present. Mr. C. Rath, who occupied the chair, outlined the meeting in a very clear and impressive manner. The horsemen in this section are very anxious that the Government should take some steps to weed out those scrub stallions which are a great injury to the horse industry in this part of the country.

W. H. MALLORY.

## No Eastern Good Roads Meeting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Mr. A. W. Campbell, Highway Commissioner, has forwarded me your letter, with the enclosed letter from Mr. J. D. McInnes, of Glen Payne, in regard to the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association, and requests that I should furnish you the information asked for by Mr. McInnes. The reason the convention has not been held has been due to the fact that the Ontario Government has refused the Eastern Ontario Association the customary grant of \$200 this year, without assigning any reason for its action. The Association has done splendid work in the past, and has received the grant of \$200 from the Government during the past four or five years. Under another cover you will find a copy of the last annual report of the Association. Not an officer of the Association receives a cent for his services. It is going to be a difficult matter for the Association to exist without this grant, as it has no means of raising funds.

H. B. COWAN, Secretary.

## A Modern Abattoir.

Martin & Leveck's abattoir, which was opened about a week ago at Toronto Junction, is one of the best-equipped buildings of the kind on the American continent. Besides making provision for the business of the Leveck Dressed Beef Co., Ltd., one department will be operated as a public abattoir, affording accommodation of the highest order to the local butchers who desire to avail themselves of modern facilities, including cold storage, at a moderate cost. This plant is furnished throughout with all modern, up-to-date devices for slaughtering animals, storing meat, and manufacturing by-products. It has a capacity of 5,000 cattle, 4,000 sheep, and 3,000 hogs per week.

## Under the Ban.

On October 25th, at New Orleans, a sweeping anti-liquor statute was adopted, by the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, an old and widespread secret fraternal society. The new regulation is intended to bar from entrance to the Order wholesale liquor dealers, and all hotelkeepers who run bars in connection with their hotels. It includes professional gamblers, saloon-keepers, bartenders, or dealers in spirituous or malt liquors. The new statute does not affect any who are already members of the Order.

## Cleaned the Ink Barrels.

Many thanks for your answer to my query re cleaning printer's ink-barrels. It did not need any petroleum applied, the coating being very inflammable of itself. I put a small quantity of straw in barrel and ignited it. When it got burning too much, turned the barrel down so as to subdue the flames and melt the ink, so it would run down. Three or four applications cleaned them, so now they are holding water, and the water is quite clean.

A SUBSCRIBER.

## Fair Dates for 1906.

Ontario Horticultural Exhibition and Honey Show: Massey Hall, Toronto ..... Nov. 6-10  
International, Chicago ..... Dec. 1-8  
Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, N. S. .... Dec. 3-6  
Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph ..... Dec. 10-14

Mr. Byron E. Walker, General Manager of the Bank of Commerce, confirms the estimate recently expressed in these columns on the emigration work of the Salvation Army. He says: "It is a business organization of a most interesting character, doing a great work. It is a piece of machinery of much greater importance than most Canadians really understand."

The new Manitoba Agricultural College, at Winnipeg, under the principalship of Mr. W. J. Black, B. S. A., formerly of "The Farmer's Advocate," was publicly opened on Nov. 6th. Seventy-eight applications were made from prospective students. In addition to the other officers, the Board has appointed a mechanical engineer and lecturer on mechanics.