

French language, marvelous instrument of National unity... It is that language of the 17th century, so pure and which was since overloaded, perhaps, with neologisms; it is that language which, as in a marvelous and remote conservatory, has been preserved in its limpid purity as it was spoken by our fathers".¹

Captain Duthoit, one of the most distinguished professors of Lille University, wrote very recently, "The Canadians have the highest degree of cult in their language. They speak very pure French, even in the rural districts".² The former consul of France in Canada, M. C. E. Bonin, said at a farewell banquet on the 23rd of last September, "The French Canadians represent the strongest heterogeneous element outside of France, and Montreal — although many ignore it — is the fourth French city in the world, after Paris, Marseille and Lyon".³

Flattering reports, too flattering, one may say. Possibly so. But since we have enemies who exaggerate our faults at pleasure, why should we not have friends who feel inclined to exaggerate our qualities? And why, also, should we not oppose the opinion of the latter to that of the former? We cannot hope to convince all these latter, but if some of them are sincere, perhaps we will succeed in opening their eyes to the truth. As to the others, those who have not even ignorance for an excuse, their prejudices are ineradicable. Hatred is more often the motive of their attacks against us, and as Bourget says "when one man hates another, he almost always ends in seeing him such as his hatred wants him to be". Then, our enemies, to attain their ends, want to see in us only an almost dessicated branch of the vigorous and admirable French trunk. The day they will have succeeded to root this opinion in the Anglo-Saxon heart, and to discredit us entirely, the hour of iniquity will have sounded, the idea contained in the well known formula will be realized and Canada will inevitably become the country of one language, as she is already the country of one flag and one king.

¹ Quoted in *Le Canada*, Montréal, February 28th 1918.

² Quoted in *Le Droit*, Ottawa, August 27th 1918.

³ Quoted in *The Montreal Gazette*, September 23rd 1918.