

EMIGRATION FROM BELGIUM
AND FRANCE

TO

CANADA

REPORT

On an enquiry made during the winter 1911-12 by Mr. Olivar
Asselin, at the request of the Department of the Interior.



OTTAWA

PRINTED BY C. H. PARMELEE, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1913

[No. 95—1913.]

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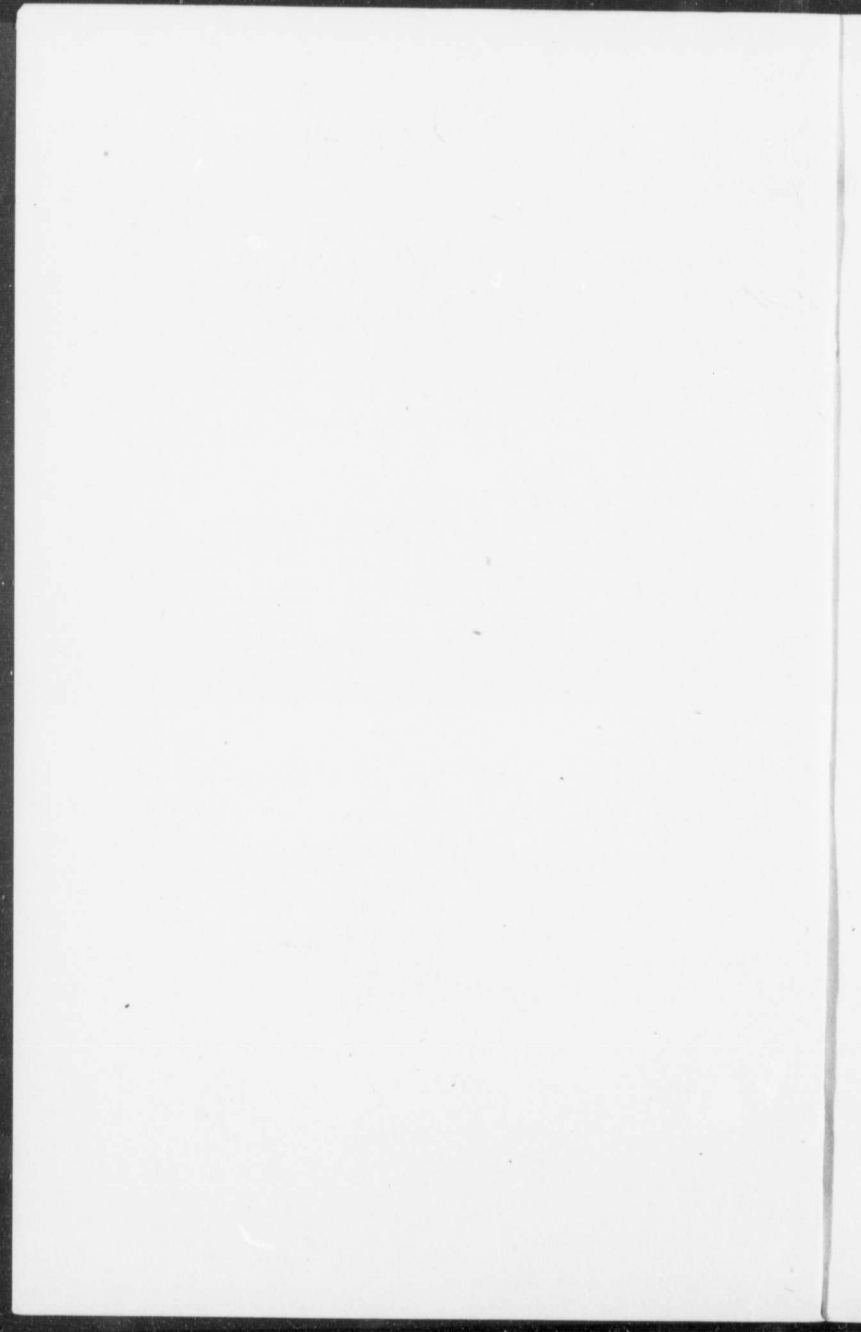
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MONTREAL, December 17, 1912.

Mr. W. D. SCOTT,

Superintendent of Immigration,
Ottawa.

Sir,—In conforming with your instructions, I have in the course of a trip to Europe last winter, studied on the spot the question of immigration from France and Belgium to Canada. I left on January 11, and returned on April 23, after having spent three weeks in Liverpool, Birmingham and London, one week in Belgium and eight weeks in France. My object in going first to England was to acquaint myself as much as possible with the processes of propaganda employed by the Canadian agents in that country, in order to judge whether, and to what extent, they could be applied in France and Belgium. My relatively short stop in Belgium is due to the fact that I did not observe in that country any of the difficulties that, in France, seem at first sight to hinder emigration to Canada, and moreover being obliged by sickness to come back by Havre, I could not as I had wished, return to Anvers, to make a complimentary sojourn, with your agent, Mr. de Coeli, of a few days in the Flanders and the official centre of Brussels.

In submitting to you now this report of my inquiry, I beg to assure you that uncontrollable circumstances did not permit me sooner to accomplish this duty, I also pray you to note that, leaving aside, of course, my personal opinion in the principle itself of encouragement to immigration I have, in this work, placed myself in the view-point of the Government, which, if I am not mistaken, is the opportunity to attract to Canada, by all legitimate means possible, the greatest number of corporally and mentally sane subjects, capable of adapting themselves to Canadian life.

It did not belong to me to reopen the question of the value of the Belgium and French settler in Canada, after the declarations made in different occasions by the Immigration officers.

Your predecessor, Mr. Smart, in his report of 1907, declares that 'the French and Belgian farmers are amongst the best that we can bring to Canada.'

Mr. J. Obed Smith, your present general agent in England, but then Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg, and in that capacity, entrusted with the direction and superintendence of immigrants in the western provinces, writes in 1907:—

'The great majority of French and Belgian immigrants are farmers. . . These settlers are very successful and thrifty.'

We read in a previous report of Mr. Smith:—

'The striking feature of the year is the arrival of a great number of French emigrants with their families. I am happy to report that we have been able to procure them employment with good wages. They willingly accept the work that is offered, specially from their countrymen, and they are anxious to learn and save the money required to acquire a farm for their own account. I am glad to say that anywhere in western Canada the French and Belgian are very successful. The energy and ingenuity which they apply to their work characterizes their farming operations.'

Mr. J. Bruce Walker, formerly general agent in England, who succeeded to Mr. Smith, at Winnipeg, writes in 1909:—

'The French and Belgian emigrants who came here last year were the best class, as they were nearly all farmers they accepted service on farms, or took lands for their own accounts.'

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In 1911 the same officer, referring to the French, Belgian, Swiss, German and Scandinavian emigrants, in the above order, says, 'These people are an unusually good class, and accept work at agriculture with great readiness.'

What could I add, but that the Belgian and French farmers by their perfect knowledge of mixed farming and soiling will be specially precious in a country like western Canada, where the cultivating of the soil is still in an elementary state, and that the French and Belgian workers, the most skilled and industrious of all Europe, would be an inestimable acquisition for our young industry, specially in the west. Belgium with a population of nearly eight millions and a territory about the size of some counties of Quebec, has only one colony, whose white population is not over fifteen hundred souls, after the most intelligent and persevering efforts made in modern times, for its settlement and exploitation. I met at Antwerp, on his way to Harwich, a young Belgian, who was going as agent for a commercial firm of Liege, to establish himself in Kantanga, presently the only region of the Belgian Congo, wherein white people can reside. This young man was going to Harwich by boat, from Harwich to Southampton by rail, from Southampton to Cape by steamer, from the Cape to Broken Hill by rail, through Boulouvayo, from Broken Hill to the Kantanga in a cart drawn by oxen, that means with a half a dozen transshipments, and either by boat, rail or cart, a five weeks' trip costing for second class everywhere, except in the oxen drawn cart, four hundred dollars. He could have gone by Suez and through eastern Africa, but his patrons, all reckoned did not see any saving by it.

How many common people, servants, peasants, workmen, mechanics, tank-workers could afford a five weeks' trip of four hundred dollars, to try and try only to improve their condition? Is it not evident that the virtual impossibility of the return, in case of failure, will always impede the immigration of these different classes, with one which no serious settlement is possible? The Congo shall some day, perhaps, be accessible to white people's activity, although many even in Belgium doubt it, but it seems that, for the present, public officers and traders only can find any profit in it. The bulk of Belgian emigration at the present moment directs its steps towards the north of France. It is reckoned that every year more than one hundred thousand Belgians cross the frontier to work all the harvest in the French provinces, but thousands of them remain in France, in departments where not only the price of land is higher than anywhere in Canada, except in the immediate vicinity of large towns and cities, but where the attachment to the land being stronger than here, it is more difficult, even at a higher price to acquire a large domain. The day is near when Belgium, in spite of its economic regime and social institutions which make pauperism unknown in that nice country, will no longer be able to nourish all its population, do what she might, and will have to resign itself to let tens of thousands of its children migrate to foreign countries. All the leading men which I have met are of opinion that Canada could easily draw the most part of that emigration. The committees named 'Expansion Mondiale' sitting at Mons in 1905 during the Liege exhibition, adopted a resolution to the effect that Belgian youths should preferably emigrate to our country. In the high commercial schools, as the Saint Ignace Institute, at Antwerp, they already and very properly teach the economic geography and history of Canada.

France with a less dense population, with births scarcely equal to deaths, a more exacting military service, still differs from Belgium in the fact that it does not lack colonial territories, and itself needs farm labourers. Nevertheless the difference is not as great as it appears at first view. Although France has always been and will always be in need of labourers on any point of its territory, and for any of its industries, it does not follow that it can or even ought to, hold its people by force. In England also, which after all does not suffer by it, emigration is strongly objected to by the large agriculturists.

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I refer you on this point to the testimony of Mr. John McLennan, now agent at Birmingham, who wrote on March 31, 1911, from Aberdeen, where he was then stationed: 'Some of the large farmers and employers of labour are opposed to our work.'

The wish for, I should say the need of, property which cannot be better fulfilled than in the colonies, is perhaps the more noted feature of the French. In France as anywhere else, the imposition of burdens more and more heavy on the ratepayers, that is in short to all for the maintenance of civil and military institutions, induces, a great many to seeking elsewhere a political regime, more favourable to individual efforts. Finally, under a Government so strongly centralized and ruled by ideas, there will always be a portion of the population which will not put up with the social or religious theories of the men in power. Here are as many causes which might, by a free action, largely increase emigration. It is not to be wondered that the French people do not emigrate more to their own colonies. While in Canada, specially in central Canada, commonly called the Canadian West, the cultivation of lands gives profit the very first year, the possible cultures in Algeria or Morocco, not to speak of other countries where difficulties, though of other kinds are not less, only become profitable after several years, from which it follows that the first expenses are lower in our country. There are now two hundred thousand French in the Argentine Republic. They have settled there, because the Argentine, contrary to nearly all the French colonies, is a hospitable and generous land, to the poor settler and for the white settler, what the English in their admirable language call it 'a poor man's and a white man's country.' With natural resources, as abundant and more varied, and a French population ten times more considerable, Canada in spite of its colder climate, which nevertheless all the Europeans endure wonderfully well, should attract at least as much as the French emigrant. It is to be noted that, far from opposing emigration to Canada, the societies which private initiative has created in France these late years for French colonial or commercial expansion, have rather favoured it. Such is the case of the Duplex Committee, as also of the Committee *France-Amérique*, a section of which existing at Montreal has just, after a few years of silence, set actively to work. The *Canadienne*, created at Paris ten years ago by French people, has no other object than to make known in France, by means of lectures and publications the advantages of farming colonization in our country.

There follows a statement of Belgian and French emigration from 1900-1901 inclusively to last year:—

Year.	Belgian.	French.
1900-1901.....	132	350
1901-1902.....	223	431
1902-1903.....	303	937
1903-1904.....	858	1,534
1904-1905.....	796	1,743
1905-1906.....	1,106	1,648
1906-1907*.....	650	1,314
1907-1908.....	1,214	2,671
1908-1909.....	828	1,850
1909-1910.....	910	1,727
1910-1911.....	1,563	2,041

*Nine months only.

In order to ascertain whether this double current could be increased it will, perhaps be useful to see to what extent the means employed by the Canadian Government in England are applied or could be applied in Belgium and France.

In the British Isles our work of propaganda comprises:—

(a) *The services of district agents*, directed by a chief agent, located at London, who acts under the instructions of the general manager or Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa. In 1911 there were eight of these district agents (that is one for every five million people), and the chief agent, Mr. Obed Smith, in his annual report of 1910 and 1911 earnestly asks the appointment of two more, one (speaking Welsh) for Wales, and the other for England. Each has his own staff and office.

(b) *The delegations of Anglo-Canadian settlers*, spread over the English territory according to their original place. Those farmer delegates are naturally chosen amongst the most intelligent and successful. They come to England in the fall and return in the spring of the year. Thirty-eight men sent in 1910-1911.

(c) *Illustrated lectures*.—Four hundred and fifty more delivered last winter by the government agents at a cost of \$50 each, and many more yet by agents of Canadian transportation companies, one of these, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has quite a host of lecturers, teachers, clergymen, and private individuals, who wish to deliver lectures on Canada, are furnished free of cost with views and a lantern. Add to this the more intimate and familiar talk of the farmer delegates to groups gathered by them.

(d) *Advertisement and newspaper articles*.—This item has cost about \$50,000 in 1911, not including the many special editions of Canadian newspapers distributed in England. Half of that sum has been spent directly by Ottawa with the other half, our London agent has published advertisements in six hundred newspapers, the most part of which, predisposed in favour of Canada by this consideration, gratuitously inserted notices, agricultural information, and even original articles on our country. I am informed by Mr. Smith that the number of newspapers will be increased this year from six hundred to one thousand, then the whole English territory will be reached by our publicity operations. The agricultural information is inserted preferably in the country newspapers which are generally published on fair or market days. There exists in the London office, under the active and intelligent direction of Mr. Just, a publicity department through which our chief agent can at all times and at a moment impress upon English opinion.

(e) *Premium to navigation companies' agents*, for certain classes of emigrants, farmers, farm servants, &c., this premium is not paid without discernment, the steamship agents are periodically visited, for two reasons; first, to stimulate those who lack initiative, and secondly, to punish those who might abuse the public, and specially the labour man. In his report of 1911, Mr. Smith insists on the insufficiency of his inspection staff and the urgent necessity of increasing it.

(f) *Free distribution of literature*.—In 1911, the Government printed or bought, for his English agencies, 1,721,675 copies of maps, pamphlets and newspapers, of which 1,150,570 copies were sent to Liverpool where the distribution office is 'Nevertheless,' says Mr. Smith in his report of 1911, 'the demand for literature has been so great that at times we have been obliged to have small extra editions of the pamphlets printed here.'

All the schools are provided with maps and all pamphlets are sent to the teachers. The literature is addressed by mail to farmers, and farm servants which we cannot reach otherwise. If you add the maps, pictures, provincial, municipal or even individual publications, you will have an idea of the part played by literature in our operations.

(g) *Exhibitions*.—Apart from the great national, imperial or international exhibitions, as those which were held these late years at Glasgow, Cork, London, the permanent exhibition as at Crystal Palace, the participation agricultural shows, and the exposition of natural and agricultural produce which is made in its offices and in the

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steamship agencies, Canada makes use, since a few years, of circulating, or rather calling exhibitions. Two large automobile lorries (trucks), and several horse-drawn vehicles, loaded with farm produce, go from fair to fair, from market to market, stopping on public squares along the way, the driver addressing crowds, and distributing to them literature with samples of products, that is, it seems, one of the most efficacious mode of advertising.

(h) *Co-operation of public and private assistance bureaux.*—On 2,048 subjects, introduced by these in 1911 our agents have accepted 1,378.

(i) *Periodic trips of agents and lecturers to Canada* to allow them to provide themselves with documents and to obtain information by sight.

(j) *Spreading of precise information referring to the wants of farm and domestic labourers in Canada.*—This information gathered on the spot by agents of the Department of the Interior, which could be purveyors of labour, is forwarded to the chief agent at London, who communicates it to his subordinates, to the steamship agents, to the assistance and employment bureaux. There are in Ontario 88 of these agents and 16 in the English sections of Quebec. During my stay in London, Mr. Smith showed me a circular which he had just received from the Department containing a recapitulation, according to the reports of these agents, of the wants of labour in thirty-nine localities of Ontario and in one of Quebec, for the following spring season. Those demands formed an army of over seven thousand, comprising a great number of families and a high proportion of unskilled labour. Mr. Smith, in communicating the circular to the steamship agents, wrote them that they could conclude from it the assurance that the department would look to the placing of all the emigrants in equally good situations, should they be too numerous for a stated place.

Those are in short, the means by which Canada has been able to increase its immigration from England, from 11,810 to 123,013 during the ten years period from 1900-01 to 1910-11, when for the first time it exceeded American immigration. If I refer to them here, it is only to demonstrate that the success of an immigration campaign specially depends on publicity, notwithstanding the primary dispositions of the people concerned. In proof of this statement I could also cite Australia. Up to those late years emigration from England to Australia was reckoned by the hundreds. Five years ago that colony was yet less known, and less favourably looked upon in London than was Canada thirty years ago. In 1909-10 Canada received 67 per cent of English emigration, and Australia 12.8 per cent only, in 1911-12 Canada 65 per cent and Australia 19.5 per cent, last year Canada 54.9 per cent and Australia 28.2 per cent, and it is expected that Australia will equal Canada this year, or at least next year. I could still mention New Brunswick, which was virtually receiving no emigrants four years ago, and which, through the opening of a particular agency in London, received three thousand last year.

It would not be just to say specially after the exhibition of Liege and Brussels, that we have done nothing in Belgium but what we have done there so little answered to the exigencies of the situation that it is not surprising to see that the annual immigration from that country reach the figure of 1,463.

In order that the great exhibitions of 1905 and 1909 could have much influence on emigration, it would have been necessary.

1st. That your department should have been entirely free to give information to visitors through its own agents. Now I am told by your agent at Antwerp, Mr. Treau de Coeli, that on both occasions the Canadian Commissioner, Mr. Hutcheson declined to adjoin him to his staff, which, belonging to the Department of Agriculture, had not stayed long enough in Belgium to know the people, and anybody could not but have made a very summary study of the emigration problem.

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2nd. To supplement these exhibitions by a systematic work in proportion with the endeavours made towards the same. Now, referring only to the four last years, here follows the detailed budget of the Anvers agency:—

	General Budget.	Monthly Salaries paid by London.	Newspapers. Publicity.	Printing in Belgium.	Total in (\$) dollars.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1908-09.....	502 10 4	33 3 4	76 5 4	5,000
1909-10.....	629 8 1	37 13 4	73 2 6	5,000
1910-11.....	608 17 9	37 13 4	75 10 7	5,775
1911-12.....	600 0 0*	37 12 4	75 0 0	58 16 0	6,000

*Approximately.

Add to that the cost of printed matter received from London, Ottawa, Brussels (balance from the exhibition), and also from Paris, viz., 38,800 copies in 1908-1909, 8,600 copies in 1909-1910 and 18,575 copies in 1910-1911.

With these modest resources the agent:—

(a) Delivers personally fifteen to twenty lectures during each winter.

(b) Causes the teachers to deliver about the same number to their pupils, and with the aid of information and material furnished by himself, these are generally repeated in the evening before classes of adults. Let me say by the way that the Belgian Congo is, except Canada, the only colony to which the teachers give a particular attention.

(c) Publishes monthly in French and Flemish four thousand in each language of a small newspaper, four pages 12-inch x 16, entitled 'Canada West.'

(d) Forward literature, including the *Canada West*, by mail to eight or nine thousand teachers, to steamship agents, &c.

(e) Answer by letter or verbally to every demand of information.

(f) Insert plain notices in 62 Belgian (Welsh and Flemish) and 28 Dutch newspapers.

This work, though praiseworthy, does not after all differ much from that done in the first years of our agency, established in 1898. It is always the same routine, conscientiously followed, on certain points, there is even a step backward, for there was a time when our agent used to deliver an average of two or three lectures per week.

The present agent is intelligent, conscientious and well thought of, his knowledge of four languages, viz., French, English, Flemish, and Dutch, give him a special competency, and he shows a splendid activity in spite of his advanced age (he is, I believe, over 65 years), but his means of action are too restricted. Let us add that not one Anglo-Canadian Steamship Company causes lectures to be delivered, although they have agents in that country, and one of these, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has a direct line to Antwerp, and it is not to be wondered if he does not obtain better results.

These results are even surprising if we take notice that one-fourth, if not one-third, of the above modest budget is applied to Holland, which depends also on Antwerp agency, and from whence 931 emigrants came to Canada in 1910-1911 against 25 in 1900-1901, and 35 in 1901-1902.

The share for Belgium does not exceed \$4,500, I inquired from Mr. de Coeli if any article of the laws of Belgium would prohibit the sending of farmer delegates to

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that country? He answered me in the negative, in fact one or two came during the winter of 1909-1910, and another one in 1910-1911, his name was Mercier. He came without instructions, hardly saw our agent, and went back the following spring, without having done either good or bad.

The participation of Canada in agriculture fairs? No. The permanent exhibition of Canadian produce in the steamship agencies? No. The co-operation of our agent with the assistance bureaux? No. A more strict control of the steamship agents, with the suppression of the premium as sanction? No. The publication of our wants of farm and domestic labour through the steamship agents? No. The periodic trips of the lecturers and agents to Canada? No. The circulating exhibition? No. The publicity in newspapers? No.

Finally, Mr. de Coeli summed up all his answers to me by stating that nothing in the laws or police regulations of Belgium prohibit us from virtually doing in that country, with certain modifications, the same work as in England, that at a very much lower cost, we could, with regard to population obtain as good results. The repressive action of the Belgian Government is only employed against breach of trust, it is to prevent those abuses, possible in Belgium as in England, that they require from steamship agents about 40,000 francs.

If our own agency, 23 Place de la Gare, bears the modest name of *Information Bureaux*, it is because the emigration agent, according to the laws of Belgium, is not the person who sells the fare tickets, but the company who employs him, he being simply an employee, and as such, subject to the much smaller bond, and Canada can then prosecute, through authorized agents, all the propaganda operations which it will think fit to do, upon the only condition that it will respect the truth.

The Belgian Government never ignored the existence of our agency, they know that our action does not restrict itself to give information, undesignedly to intending emigrants to Canada, but they have always closed their eyes to it. Mr. de Coeli is on the best of terms with the immigration inspector at the port of Antwerp, Mr. Venescon. The Government themselves, though the Department of Foreign Affairs, published last year, on Canada, for the use of emigrants, a pamphlet, which I hold at your disposal, and which although more concise than most of our own, and less exuberant in its optimism, is very sympathetic all the same. The emigrants have the benefit of special fares on the railways managed by the Government, within a circuit of 100 kilometers from Antwerp, the ordinary tariff is reduced to half in their favour. Argentina has at Brussels an agency which, the same as ours, operates freely.

Does our agent lack initiative? Should he have, and has he made to our chief agent at London, from which he depends, the suggestions required to increase his means of action? Does the responsibility rest on his superior? In order to decide the question I should want information which it was not in my power to obtain. However, some of the official representatives of Canada in London are under the most erroneous impression concerning Belgian emigration. In your letter of January 5, you told me to take instructions from Lord Stratheona while in London. I saw the High Commissioner twice, and each time, he mentioned to me what he called the hostility of European Governments regarding emigration. Each time he related to me that, a few years previously, he had nearly placed himself in a bad fix for having attempted to relieve a Canadian agent arrested by one of those Governments. Each time he advised one, and repeatedly, to be extremely prudent, if I wished not to expose myself to trouble. One would have thought that jail was open for me on my landing in Belgium. The same story was repeated to me at least once, by the secretary of the Commissioner, Mr. Griffith. It was only later, and on the spot, that, having known the very special circumstances the origin and the venerable antiquity of the incident which had so much alarmed the noble Lord, I understood the real importance of those stories. I

am far from doubting the good faith of the High Commissioner or of his secretary, I only state that being able, owing to their position, to keep themselves posted day by day, and exactly on the Belgium opinion, they talked of it as if they did not know anything of it.

I also could, on the same subject, note one occurrence in the official relation of Mr. de Coeli with his immediate superior, Mr. Smith.

In 1911, the great socialist paper, *The People*, inspired by a Belgian who entrusted a few years previously with a particular mission in Belgium, had quarrelled with Mr. de Coeli, engaged in a campaign against Canada. Its articles were reprinted in newspapers of divers opinions, and the reputation of Canada suffered by the fact. Our agent wanted to refute, Mr. Smith dissuaded him from it, saying that, in an emigration campaign, actual work is worth more than controversies, that he, himself, had realized so much in England, by seeming to ignore critics. Apparently Mr. Smith was talking very sensibly, but he was forgetting that, if it is possible with a publicity budget of \$5,000 per year to cause to sing the praises of Canada loud enough to silence all critics, it is no more the same with £75 (\$375) per year, which is as we remember the publicity budget of the Antwerp agency. And that difference escaped Mr. Smith's mind not because he is against Belgian emigration, we have already seen on the contrary that he is in favour of it (and I make it a pleasure as well as a duty to declare that not often a gentleman gave me such an impression of largeness of his views), but because being entirely absorbed by the gigantic work which he does, and so well, in England, he can not either actively nor knowingly, attend to Belgium. Last fall, the inauguration of the publicity campaign, if we may so call the appropriation of a modest credit of \$375, was delayed several weeks on account of a difference of views, between Mr. de Coeli and Mr. Smith about the nature of advertisements to be published.

In order to materially increase Belgium emigration to Canada, it would in my opinion be necessary to:—

1st. Separate from Belgium, Holland, a country too different in its interests, its habits and language, and moreover important enough to be attended to by a distinct agency.

2nd. Withdraw Belgium from the control of the London office.

3rd. Increase the budget and make a trial in that country, through active and intelligent agents, well acquainted with the languages and affairs in Belgium, who would themselves as much as possible use the service of the authorized emigration agents, of the propaganda means employed in England, and which are not prohibited by the Belgian Government. Publicity especially, would require a much larger amount. This mode of action, wisely employed, shall give so much more results, as Belgium is one of the countries in the world where newspapers are more spread. Last year there were published in that country 76 daily newspapers, of which 56 in French and 20 in Flemish, 130 large weeklies, of which 80 in Flemish and 50 in French, and about as many local weeklies.

I have said, make a trial through agents, in fact, the Belgian territory could very soon be divided into Antwerp for Flanders and Brussels for Walloony.

Should a consular or commercial agency be appointed in Belgium, there shall be established a close co-operation between it and the emigration agencies. Australia having no agency in Belgium, Canada's operations will be all the more efficient. I shall add that the present staff seems to me insufficiently paid.

With respect to our work in France it has, since a few years, raised in the French official circles, an opposition the cause of which it is urgent to remove, if we do not wish to allow the situation to grow still worse.

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On several occasions the French Government by the Department of the Interior entrusted with public security, has highly manifested its dislike about the Canadian agents' work in France.

On June 25, 1909, Mr. Clemenceau instructed the prefect to warn the French public of the dangers of emigration to Canada, 'a country where alone farm-servants hiring their services to land owners, and mechanics possessing sufficient means to set up for themselves, can settle under favourable conditions.' And that circular, including many items on the deficiency of roads and railways, 'that want and call for, sectionmen and labourers. The difficulty to sell agricultural products, &c., is itself railway sectionmen and labourers.' The difficulty to sell agricultural products, &c., is itself but the issuing of a circular of February 26, 1886, apparently directed against the agent which the government of Quebec was then sending to France.

On August 21, 1911, Mr. Briand, who had succeeded to Mr. Clemenceau, forwarded to the prefects, 'in virtue of his office' a notice which he begs them to insert, *without mention of origin*, (these words are underlined in the text) and as an ordinary news in the newspaper of the towns and districts where French emigrants are principally recruited, employees, industrial mechanics and farm labourers, for Canada. In that notice it is said—

(a) that, with a very few exceptions, the clerks, the young men of quality, the office employees, meet in Canada, but 'disappointments and failure.'

(b) that, outside of Montreal, if he is not familiar with the English language, and everywhere if he does not belong to the syndicates or 'unions' the foreign mechanics can hardly find work, that moreover the difference in tools almost imposes a new apprenticeship and that, on account of the mode of living the salaries are not as high as they seem at first, in short that 'the mechanics who have slight chances of success are those who are skilled or special labourers, knowing the English language.'

(c) that, seeing the insufficiency of transport accommodation and the difficulty of selling their crops, and also the scarcity of manual labour even the farmers are not always sure to succeed, 'They have the more luck,' says the circular, but yet they have to go to the north-west, and they must be vigorous, experienced, and possess a capital of at least ten thousand francs, and as much as possible, a family who saves them paid labour. They should have initiative, not fear a severe climate and work with perseverance and courage during ten or fifteen years. 'At that price,' adds the notice, 'they would have succeeded in France and suffered much less. And the minister concludes: 'The best French emigration to Canada would still be our directors of enterprises, engineers, &c., and our capital well employed and controlled by a French founded bank.'

A circular of which I have not the exact date, but which goes back to the Combes Ministry in 1905, reads thus:—

'Mr. Prefect, my attention has been several times drawn to the increase of the rural population, specially in the Departments of the South and Savoie and that fact is attributed to increasing emigration of youths.

'Some duly authorized agencies have, in fact, extended their action upon nearly all the territory, and in order to recruit the greatest possible number of labourers intended for different countries of America they most often make an exaggerated or even false description of the advantages to be met in those remote parts. The sub-agents whom they employ do not confine themselves to verbal promises. They also issue hand bills and pamphlets, they even make use of irregular auxiliaries, that is of individuals who do not hold an authentic proxy of an emigration agency only authorized by the Government.

'Recent acts of illicit recruitment, which I have established to be submitted to the Courts, appear to me of such a nature as to justify a more severe watch in order to prevent the extension of a traffic whose agents would resort to any means to earn the premium allotted to them for each person they can engage.

'Whilst insisting that each violation of these instructions should immediately be proved and prosecuted according to law, you will be careful to recommend to the above mentioned officers (under prefects and officers of judiciary police) to quite specially watch posters purporting appeals to French labourers to emigrate and to refuse authorization to post up placards where agents would entitle themselves otherwise than agents authorized by the French Government, the proof of which they would have previously to furnish.

'Finally, you shall also recommend to the same officers to prohibit distribution of pamphlets appealing to emigrants, they should always refuse permission for such distribution.

'There is no reason to except our countrymen from this rule, for it is important to keep them at home where they are useful for farm labour and they may be called to fill the obligations imposed by the recruitment law.

'I recommend you at last, Mr. Prefect, to renew to the agents of Emigration police the order to draw up an official report for violation of the law, against any individual who would meddle with emigration operations without being authorized thereto either directly by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, or through an authentic power of attorney given him by an authorized agency.'

At last, as a direct consequence of the campaign made by a portion of the French press against our agency, there was an exchange of diplomatic communication between the French Government and the English embassy, in 1910-11. It is from the above situation that in some Canadian political circles, they have concluded that no emigration propaganda was possible in France, in order to judge intelligently it is necessary:—

1st. To admit the absolute right of the French Government to protect its countrymen against breaches of trust by emigration agents (including steamship agents), even without any law to that effect. Now, it does not appear that the object of the above circulars, though containing some errors in point of fact, is anything but the repression of breaches of trust, what we commonly call false representations.

2nd. To acknowledge the truth, which may be or is evidently contained in the circulars and communications of the French Department of the Interior, on the dangers which an inconsiderate emigration from France to our country would present, not only for France, but for Canada itself. Nothing authorizes us to believe that in spite of its quite natural look of Combes, the circular of 1905, which, let it be said by the way, concerns not only Canada, but all the 'Countries of America', making some propaganda in France by means of premiums or otherwise, exaggerates the audaciousness, the imprudence, may even the breaches of trust committed by agents at that agitated period of the French life, when the idea of emigration was making such powerful impression on a portion of its nation. One cannot help smiling to-day in reading in the Clemenceau circular that in Canada there are no roads or railways for the farmers, and consequently the sale of farm produce is difficult; that there is 'no demand here for section men and railway labourers,' &c. All such assertions being partially true in 1886, but all told of such an amusing archaism in 1909, and so much more in 1912; but, if this may settle things, we will readily go as far as admit the conclusion that in Canada, 'only farm labourers can settle in favourable conditions' (see above). At last, if the circular of 1911 shows the gloomy side of the obstacles to agricultural colonization, and if the chances of success of the foreign mechanics, already very good in

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spite of the obstacles pointed out, cannot but improve in a country wherein, to mention only the building trades, unskilled masons and brick labourers are paid three francs an hour and carpenters as much as two francs, we are, by way of compensation, as much more at ease to admit what is said about office employees, young men of quality, clerks, that after some experiments an unnecessary groping our Government, as in fact Mr. Briand confesses it, dissuades this kind of compensation, nay more, advises only farmers emigration.

3rd. To distinguish between the French law and the decrees which complete it, on the one part, and on the other the simple police regulations brought about by the circumstances. The French law on emigration (of course I only cite the essential articles) read as follows:—

Article 1.

No one may undertake the operations of engagement or transportation of emigrants without the authorization of the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works.

Article 4.

No vessel intended for the service of emigration may leave port until the captain or the ship owner has obtained a certificate showing that all prescriptions imposed, either by the present law, or by the ministerial law, or by the ministerial decrees and orders edicted in execution of the said law in the interest of the police and of the emigrants, have been complied with.

Article 10.

Any transgression of the Articles 1 and 4 (the latter referring to transportation of emigrants on vessels) of the present law, is subject to a penalty of from 50 francs to 5,000 francs. In case of a second offence in the same year the fine is double.

Any infraction of the regulations of public administration, and of the ministerial decrees and orders issued for the execution of the said regulations and decrees concerning emigration police, is subject to the penalties contained in Article 471 of the Penal Code:—

An executive decree issued on the 9th March, 1861, and still in force, states that 'the emigration companies or agencies may not be authorized to undertake the engagement and transportation of emigrants only on the condition to furnish a bond which would be fixed by the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works, within the limits of 15 to 40,000 francs' (Article 1) that 'the agents whom the authorized companies may employ must be furnished with an authentic power of attorney' (Article 4) finally that, 'the companies shall be held responsible for the acts of their agents.'

It may be seen that there is nothing in that law, nor in the decree which forbids the *engagement*, that is the more direct and interested of all the kinds of incitation to emigration. Even now, Mr. Wiillard tells me, all what the law requires is, from the agents, (viz., the steamship companies) a bond of 40,000 francs against transgressions and breaches of trust, and from the sub-agents (viz., the regional or local agents of transportation companies, commonly called steamship agents because they mostly represent steamship companies), a bond of 3,000 francs. The police regulations, issued by the Minister of the Interior, have no other object but to cause the law and the decree to be observed, and, most evidently, cannot go further. The judicial situation of the emigration agent in France and in England, is not then so dissimilar as it has been claimed to be, since the bond is also required in England. And the actual situation, though more different, still offers 'certain analogy,' since in these years, on the initiative of our agent at London, several ticket brokers have been

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condemned by the English tribunals for want of authorization. The only difference rests in the fact that the English Government dispensed of the bond the official agents of the British Colonies.

4th. To distinguish in reading the above circulars between the authorized and the non-authorized agents.

The necessity of that distinction is evident, of course it would be ridiculous to say that, when the French Government expressly points out to its prefects, repressive action the unauthorized emigration agents, it does not concern those who have furnished the obligatory bond, and that when ordering also the repression of breaches of trust of authorized agents, it does not mean to hinder the honest, carrying on of a trade allowed by the law. Your departments agent in Paris, not having furnished a bond, is not authorized to incite people to emigrate. None of the lecturers delegated by your department to France was any more authorized to the purpose. The acts of such incitement committed by your agents or delegates, either under your instructions or otherwise, were then a violation of the French law and it is not to be wondered at if the French Government after several years of more or less gracious forbearance, has at last made them the subject of diplomatic remonstrances.

5th. To distinguish between the lawful and the unlawful acts of the authorized agents, because a steamship agent has furnished the required bond it does not follow that he is allowed to use all kinds of tricks.

6th. To distinguish, amongst the lawful acts, between the opportune and the inopportune ones. Justifiable or not, judicious or not, the circular of 1905 which has preceded and likely brought on the others, was partly resolved by the religious and political considerations which, not only our agents and delegates, but also some authorized steamship agents, used in their campaign in favour of Canada. About 1904, that is one year after the installation of our agency and in the height of the agitation caused by the law on associations, some French missionaries who had resided in Canada a few years went back to France in order to preach an emigration crusade. They naturally, in their speeches compared to what they were calling, justly or not, the tyranny of the anti-clerical Government to the religious liberty enjoyed in Canada. The Catholic press published their utterances, the anti-Catholic press denounced them, and the Government's intervention became inevitable. The Minister of the Interior had the law for him, none of our agents being authorized. Amongst the ecclesiastical or religious delegates whose propaganda would have exceeded the judicious if not the legal limits, the Paris agent mentions, for instance, the Rev. F. D. Dumond, the Abbe's Gaire and Lefloch.

The Paris agency, established in 1903 under the direct authority of your department, placed under the dependency of London in 1905 after the entry of Hon. Mr. Oliver, as Minister of the Interior, and reinstated in its primitive situation of 1908, has undergone so many different influences that it was impossible without a much more thorough investigation, to knowingly allot the responsibility of the present state of things.

Rightly does it seem, however, that the worst causes of its troubles, was precisely those changes of direction unquestionably entailing,—corresponding changes of policy. If we examine its work since the beginning we are struck with the lack of steadiness which marks it. Now, it wants lectures, now it does not want them. Sometimes newspapers advertisements are considered necessary and soon after as dangerous and so forth. Nowhere more than in France it would have been important to previously examine closely the economical and social situation of the country, its laws, the manners and liking of its inhabitants, and then to adopt a well defined line of conduct. Even taking into account the arbitrary part played by the Governments in a Caesarean Republic like France, we feel that our agent, on the contrary has been led, willing or not, now by the command of Ottawa, now by that of London, and now even by the claims of the Canadian political parties, when he was not trying to please everybody.

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Our agency had also to bear before the French Government, the responsibility of acts committed in 1907 by one agent of the province of Quebec. I shall quote on that incident the following extract of a memorandum of Mr. Wiallard:—

'In 1907, the Province of Quebec to which Mr. Wiallard had often times offered to distribute its pamphlets specially drawn up to show the advantages of the said province to French emigration, resolved, not to profit by that offer, but to subsidize an 'emigration agency' under the direction of Mr. Deslauriers who came to France to make a propaganda.

'Mr. Deslauriers was recommended by the Minister of Colonization, the Hon. Chas. Devlin, to Mr. Fabre, then General Commissioner, who, representing the Province of Quebec as well as the Dominion, thought fit to allow Mr. Deslauriers to make his headquarters at the General Commissariat of Canada. Mr. Deslauriers, intimate friend of one of Mr. Wiallard's assistants, Mr. Geoffrion, published with the latter's help, at Paris, an emigration pamphlet the text of which was nearly word for word taken from our federal pamphlets, and always using the above mentioned name of 'Emigration Agency' which is always prohibited by the French law, gave in the same pamphlet the address of the General Commissariat as the seat of operation.

'The above act of kindness and, anyway, of difference to the wishes of the Quebec Minister, seems to have disordered Mr. Wiallard's work in this way that the propaganda thus openly made by Mr. Deslaurier's violation of the attention of the French Government already so prejudiced against it.

'After four months of operation without any other result besides that to arouse a recrudescence and accentuation of the ill humour of the authorities of the country, the Federal Government, seeing the irregularity of this situation, enjoined Mr. Fabre to ask Mr. Deslauriers to install his agency elsewhere than in the premises of the General Commissariat.

It is to be noted that then, and ever since his appointment, Mr. Wiallard had his offices at the Commissariat, 10 Rue de Rome, which, in the opinion of strangers, rendered him still more liable for the act of Mr. Deslauriers.

It does not seem either that our agent is entirely free from personal responsibility. He has protested, even in 1907 (see letter of 22 October, 1907) against sending delegates, lecturers who too often, says he, refused or neglected to conform themselves to the French laws and regulations, and the department has continued until 1911 to send every year a couple of laymen or clerical delegates; but assuming that the delegates were truly as hard to train, he does not seem to have himself always followed the line of conduct best adapted to save him from annoyances.

Unable according to the law to exercise any direct action Mr. Wiallard should have, it seems, by keeping himself in the shade so much as possible, looked for, and with still more reason accepted the assistance authorized by the French law.

Now without questioning his good intentions, nor contesting his untiring activity, the persons whom I have been able to consult, among those who take an interest in any way whatever in the matter of emigration to Canada, unanimously told me that Mr. Wiallard constantly neglected such assistance.

That opinion is especially alive in the 'Canadienne,' a society which since ten years, through the greatest sacrifices, serves the interests of Canada in France. It is also held, in various measures by the maritime circles.

All the Anglo-Canadian navigation companies have presently in Paris, agencies which are themselves represented in all the districts of France and adjoining countries and though only one keeps a line between France and Canada, all of them, to say nothing of any immediate interest, would gladly contribute to make known a country whose general prosperity shall necessarily have an influence on theirs. The

general agent of the Canadian Northern, Mr. Heyek, who makes in central Europe an intensive emigration campaign, tells me that he has in France two thousand sub-agents, out of which six hundred are diligent, that he would with pleasure send them the official publications of Canada, but that Mr. Wiallard never asked him to do so.

While I was in France, a serious difficulty arose between Mr. Wiallard and the 'Company General Transatlantique' which was then organizing, and has since organized a direct line between Havre and Canada. The company, offering to collaborate with our agent, was asking in return the benefit of the premium granted by the Canadian law to all agents without distribution.

Mr. Wiallard declined, invoking a decision of your Department in 1908 given on a previous demand of the same company, and by which, in his mind, the premium had to be reserved to the Allan Company only, as a subsidized company. The question submitted to the Canadian Commissioner, the Hon. Mr. Roy, was referred to me. After examining the correspondence I found out that most evidently the Company General had been refused in benefit of premium in 1908, because then it had no line to Canada.

At that time the intending emigrants were handed a 'list' of some authorized steamship agencies, reading thus:—

Currie & Co., Agents of the Allan line (direct service from France to Canada), 2 Pleuvry Street, Havre, or 10 Auber Street, Paris.

Hernu, Peron & Co., 61 Haussmann Boulevard, Paris.

Pitt & Scott, 47 Cambon Street, Paris.

Now out of these three agencies, one represents only, and the two others represent mostly the Allan line.

You will find in the Department a letter of Mr. Wiallard, dated March 15, 1912, when it is said:—

'Personally, I have no doubt that far from complicating the transportation problem, the opening of a new line to Canada will be beneficial to all, specially to Canada. I hope that the Allan people shall keep the favour which they enjoy and which they have earned by their past work, while, on the other side the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, by means of its numerous and strong connections, will bring forth a renewed activity between the two countries.'

It was only on my pressing advice and under the threat of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, to provoke from the French Government an intervention which could have been fatal to us, that Mr. Wiallard decided to write that letter, wherein for my part, I would only find fault with the exaggerated care for the Allan line interests, and which after all is but the summing up of what, strange circumstance, our agent was writing to you of his own motion on May 25, 1908.

At least, you would believe, there will remain with our agent the co-operation of the Allan Company. Nevertheless, we do not see anywhere the extraordinary services for which the company might deserve the particular services for which the company might reserve the particular anxiety felt about it. It published a year book on Canada, extracted for the most part from our official publications, and I read in the memorandum already quoted, 'The Allan Company with its line from Havre to Canada, seems to have given satisfaction to the French public, which has adopted that line to go to Canada.' But I also read in that memorandum, about the premium, 'All the work is mostly done by our agents and not by the steamship agencies. The sale of transportation tickets that they (the steamship agents) make to the emigrants is, in large proportion, supplied by Mr. Wiallard agency, and they have no more but to issue the said tickets.'

Mr. Wiallard might answer that, in the whole this extract from his memorandum directed against the premium regime reads thus: 'All the work is mostly done by our

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agents and not by the steamship agencies, which have no right to, and do not, use means that they know to be reprehensible.' Which would give to understand that he and his subordinates only may incite to emigration without violating the French law.

Now, Mr. Wiallard does not only thus attribute to himself and his subordinates, powers which he has not, or which in any case he will never be able to exercise, but with the utmost reserve, but, I have already said, and I repeat it, it is the steamship agents, and they alone, who are authorized to engage emigrants.

Save the independent and unfortunately too limited action of the 'Canadienne' that of the steamship agencies which, from Mr. Wiallard's own admission, has been about null, and the direct delegation of a couple of lectures each year by the Department of the Interior after as before 1905, and until 1911 the work of the Paris agency. as far as I have been able to make it up from the diffuse and on some points manifestly incomplete memorandum and the verbal utterances of Mr. Wiallard, may be summed up as follows:—

From 1903 to 1905 under the immediate direction of Ottawa: (a) Lectures in the provinces, specially in Brittany and Savoy by Mr. Wiallard and by French priests delegated by the Canadian Government, these latter combining with their lectures on history and geography, sharp reflection on the French Government in order to the more strongly impressing Catholic audiences.

(b) Distribution of literature by the lecturers.

(c) Advertisements in papers. Mr. Wiallard declares that he obtained from Mr. Sifton, then Minister, and his chief officer, Mr. Smart, all what he asked them.

From 1905 to the middle of 1907, under the direction of Mr. Preston and then Mr. Walker, agents in London, work about null for want of money. Mr. Wiallard hastens to explain that during that period all the agencies were by Mr. Oliver reduced to a congruous portion. He adds:—

'It was so much more easy for Mr. Wiallard to obey the orders of the Department that that era of economy coincided with the efforts of the French Government, by way of circulars to all its officers in order to check the emigration agitation which was then becoming more and more evident owing to the work done by our agent.'

From the middle of 1907 to February, 1908, under the direction of Mr. Walker, and after a trip to Paris, of W. W. Cory, chief officer in the Department of the Interior, and Scott, General Superintendent of Emigration. Publication of advertisements in many papers of Paris and the province 'in order to draw the attention of the public on Canada.' 'Those advertisements,' says Mr. Wiallard, 'were so drafted as to show what class of emigrants were apt to succeed in Canada, and who were those, who, in the contrary, should abstain.' It was also in that period that Mr. Arthur Geoffrion was adjoined to Mr. Wiallard.

From February to September, 1908, under the direction of Mr. Obed Smith, successor to Mr. Walker, work almost null, on account of discussion between Mr. Wiallard and Mr. Smith.

From September, 1908 to 1910, inclusively, after the signature of the Franco-Canadian Treaty of Commerce, and under the immediate direction of Ottawa. Advertisements in newspapers, lectures on economy, geography and history, distribution of wall maps to teachers who agree to give their pupils a lecture on Canada; distribution of atlases to pupils as reward for the best lessons, and of Canadian illustrated postal cards to allow them to correspond with the agency. There were given about five hundred lectures by teachers in 1909-10. 'They do not cost much,' says Mr. Wiallard, 'but the impression on the classes which the Canadian Government wishes more specially to reach was everywhere evident.' The memorandum adds:—

'Mr. Wiallard had also asked from the department the authorization for Mr. Geoffrion and Montpetit, connected with the commissariat, to give about fifty familiar talks or lectures before the Chambers of Commerce as also in agriculture schools. Those lectures had a certain success but they entailed rather great expenses.'

1911.—Almost complete inaction, imposed by the diplomatic protests of the French government.

1912.—Resumption of the propaganda in school circles, in the month of March after the distribution of 4,500 atlases each containing ten illustrated cards, to as many teachers, with the promise of wall maps to the lecturers and atlases to the pupils. Mr. Wiallard had already obtained five hundred lectures and could count on three hundred more, from then till the holidays. Our agent adds that those lectures are given not only in the classes, but most of the time in presence of the parents, and always in the best desirable circles; that in many cases the pupils make compositions after the lecture.

A work so often interrupted, and so incoherent, cannot evidently bear the fruits which could be expected from a more persistent and better regulated campaign. That it has nevertheless carried the figure of the French emigration to Canada from 431 as it was in 1901-02 up to 2,041 in 1910-11, is the most eloquent answer to be made to those who pretend that a movement of French emigration to Canada is impossible. The figure of 2,041 is even inferior to the true figure, and many French emigrants come to Canada as first passengers, and a certain number of foreign emigrants, who come through Paris are not counted by that agency.

In order to strictly conform to law, the work of our agent, presently, would be reduced to make Canada known by the disinterested, but necessarily cautious, intermedium of the teachers these latter, could not in fact incite to emigration without subjecting themselves to serious annoyances to advertise the address of the agency in the petty ads of a couple of newspapers of Paris, without saying a word of emigration, and to answer verbally or in writing, to applicants for information. It is already something, we must specially appreciate the collaboration, precarious to say the truth as regards the state schools, as it could cease on a nod of the Minister, which Mr. Wiallard has been able to obtain in the body of teachers. Is it to say that we could not do more?

I have already pointed out how we could turn to account the authorization of the steamship agencies for the spreading of information concerning Canada. Allow me, Mr. the General Superintendent, to indicate to you some other steps to undertake or attempt.

A French gentleman, who has been one of the founders of the *Canadienne*, and who is still one of the leading minds, I should say the souls of this valiant society, and from whom I was asking what he thought our Government might and should do to increase French emigration to Canada, pointed out to me amongst others:—

First. The periodical delegation to France, of French settlers.

On this point at least, my interlocutor was agreeing with Mr. Wiallard. I notice a letter which our agent wrote you on the 22nd October, 1907:—

'Although, for reasons well known to you, you must not send any more agents like those who transiently came here, I believe it would now be most necessary to seriously consider a plan which I have long ago submitted to your department. That plan consists in the sending to France of a dozen delegates chosen one half in the province of Quebec, and the other half in the West, among the French settlers who have succeeded and to whom you would pay a second-class passage from their residing point to the place where they came from. No mission would be entrusted to them. They would go back among their old friends without any other object than to spend there two or three months, that is the

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best kind of propaganda. Should they persuade some one to emigrate, we could remunerate them by so much per head on condition that the emigrants would go with them. The number of such delegates may vary according to the will of the Department, but to my mind it should be less than twelve. I repeat that, in my opinion, the Department should not grant any salary or travelling expenses of any kind to those delegates, besides the return ticket, as stated above.

Mr. Wiallard also suggested, in 1908 (see letter of September 23, 1908, to the General Superintendent of Emigration) to send from France to Canada, at the expense of Canada, a delegation composed of about twenty expert agriculturists, directors of agronomic institutes, editors of agricultural papers, &c.

That suggestion, which remained without reply, could easily be carried out, and I believe without giving umbrage to the French authorities. For my own part, I would see but an advantage for our country, if every year an agricultural mission from France to Canada should correspond to the farmers' delegation of Canada to France.

2nd. The exhibitions.—However opportune they may be the permanent exhibitions in the large cities would benefit only the industrial and commercial expansion, and therefore your department would be right in taking no interest in them, they being dependent on your colleague, the Minister of Commerce, on the Chambers of Commerce or the manufacturers and merchants concerned. It would not be the same with single shows, of divers products, natural, agricultural and industrial, installed in the stores of small town merchants on the main street or on the square. The very low cost of such installation could be divided with the Department of Mines and that of Commerce, who might in return sell permits to Canadian merchants and manufacturers.

The motor-car exhibitions, would have a good effect.—If on fair days, in the large towns an automobile waggon should arrive and display under a tent a Canadian exhibition of all kinds of produce. If at that display one could buy cheap advertising articles; if the farming processes and results were intelligently brought up, there would still be efficacious mode of action. That kind of shows might be organized with the same co-operation as the previous one. Visitors would on demand be given sober, precise, and true information on Canada.

The commercial interests which we have in France would be surprised to justify these steps which yet, and naturally would have to be previously considered with the view of complying to the French laws and regulations, but it is useless to observe that even in the absence of any direct invitations they would also help the emigration cause.

3rd. Utilization of French co-operation. It is not to be forgotten that any Frenchman has a right to make known not only Canada, its history, its geography, its farming and colonization processes, but also, and that by writings, by speech or by direct demonstration, (shows) his own opinion as French citizen, of the benefit which his countrymen might derive from the resources of this country. Shall I add that the Frenchman knows better than we will ever do, the economical and social situation of his compatriots, their temper, the laws and regulations of the country, the intimate disposition of the rulers?

There exists in France societies of lecturers who cover the whole territory and who, for a light remuneration would willingly agree that their lecturers should treat on Canada.

On the guarantee of its disbursements *Canadienne* which for the last ten years, at its own expense has made propaganda in favour of Canada, could:—

(a) write out, with the collaborators which you design to it, and in the French

style (which one would think that the writers or translators of your department have always endeavoured to hurt) quite a library of popular works of Canada, which it would afterwards apply itself to spread into the schools of every grade and nature, official or free, public libraries, reading rooms, and which might also be sold at a very trifling price, in all the bookseller's shops.

(b) Inform the French public on every occasion by notices in the press, which would be so much easier for the *Canadienne* that the monthly Bulletin of that society is already an excellent compendium of our national life, and that in France as anywhere else the papers are ordinarily glad to gratuitously insert articles of public interest.

(c) Also publish letters that your agents in Canada would invite French business men and settlers to write to French newspapers—preferably emigrants from the provinces to the papers of their province.

(d) Still improve its Bulletin and spread it gradually through the whole of France.

In the propaganda writings, the illustrated monographies of parishes populated in whole or in part by settlers from France (or Belgium) would occupy an ample place. In fact one could not too much exaggerate the importance of a testimony based on a concluding personal experiment. I met, during my stay in France, in a small group of political and intellectual men specially assembled to talk of our country, a French publicist of great repute, who told me that he had spent several weeks in the western Canada. I was flattering myself in advance to see among us a man who could support my assertions, I was greatly surprised to find him extremely adverse to emigration to Canada. He was pleading the requirements of the French agriculture, and the depopulation of France. But as I was replying to that by the arguments of other Frenchmen, that French agriculture shall always want more hands whatever may be done, and that a larger emigration would perhaps determine a stronger proportion of births, he switched on the deplorable, in his opinion, situation of the French settlers in Canada. He pointed out with a particular bitterness the deceptions and sufferings of the settlers from Montmartre, the individual who has founded that colony had better not appear there any more, or he would be lynched. Being unable to contradict him on the spot I was feeling my surprise replaced by deep humiliation; I could only timidly ask the name of the individual. It was a Frenchman, it appears who had been a municipal councillor at Paris. I recognized by that description one of the officials of our agency, Mr. Foursin. Some days later I accidentally met Mr. Foursin, and in a hurry asked him explanations, 'It is a curious coincidence,' said he, 'the Mayor of Montmartre has just come to Paris. Having gone to Canada with very little money, he now enjoys a nice fortune which allows him to make his annual trip to France. His compatriots are besides all comfortable, deprived of means of communication for some time, they held on all the same, nearly all, if not all, are to-day large land owners.' I imagine that a good monography of Montmartre, coupled with the testimony of interested settlers would eventually be in France on excellent antidote to the denunciation of our publicist, a true model (if I judge by our first interview) of that class of Frenchman, who, being satisfied to understand colonization as Daudet pretends that they do at Tarascon, are more preoccupied to conform to their theories than their theories to the real facts. That mode of action, inaugurated in France under Mr. Oliver by the publication of a collection of testimonies entitled: 'Truth about Canada,' will improve by its expansion and its systematizing, but also to be placed under the care, or at least the patronage of a French society. It was recommended in these words, in August, 1888, in a report of Mr. Foursin, to Father Labelle, then assistant Minister of Colonization of Quebec:—

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'1st. It is possible, contrary to the general opinion to create a serious movement of farmers in France, it suffices for that, to employ the means appropriated to the character and wants of the French peasant.

'2nd. All care should be taken to favour at the outset the emigration of one or two good families in a stated locality and to devote attention to the success of these first families, who will afterwards become excellent agents of propaganda.'

Therefore, leave with the steamship agents the work which they are authorized to do, subsidize, and at need, organize annual delegations from Canada to France, and from France to Canada. Make use of the inestimable co-operation which is offered to us by the French societies of propaganda in favour of Canada, all processes which we have heretofore neglected and the adoption of which is imperative.

The realization of that programme will be possible only on two conditions.

1st. That the person entrusted with the carrying on of same, shall understand its motive, and not see in it, on the contrary, an arbitrary condemnation of his own part conduct. I think I have already shown how the present agent is mistaken about his powers on certain matters. In a first memorandum which he submitted to me on my arrival in Paris, before I had even asked him a single question, Mr. Wiillard defends himself as follows:—

'If we had had plenty of elbow-room could we have obtained better results? Yes, probably. But was it desirable that it should have been so? I do not believe it.

'Suppose that we had met no opposition and that instead of sending each year 2 to 3,000 French settlers to Canada, I had succeeded in sending 8 to 10,000 in the very first years, would not such a result have been dangerous for future work in France?

'What! the French colonies absorb but 3 or 4,000 emigrants from France every year, and here is an English colony which draws twice as many. Would have been claimed everywhere.

'Behold the attempt to systematically depopulate France would have been said with some appearance of right. Was it not better to continue in the same way, slowly, moderately and cautiously, and let the seed which we have sown in French land bring forth its fruits with time.

'Once more, should the Canadian Government hold on to its decision not to send any more propagandists and delegates to address the crowds in the four ends of France to invite people to emigrate to Canada, I do not hesitate in saying that more and more the movement already created will increase by the mere fact of the rational and continual impulse produced by our assertions since many years.'

'We have to content ourselves with making Canada, known by all means allowed by the law in France, lectures on geography, history, and economics in all the favourable centres, publication of articles of a general interest on Canada, distribution of atlases and views of Canada, offer to the school museums or to teachers of Canadian photographs, samples of grains, sheaves of wheat, and if possible, of specimens of fruits, and vegetables. Never to utter the word emigration, and not let it be found in the literature offered, at least to give our official propaganda pamphlets only to the persons determined to quit the country, and who ask special information for that purpose.'

'That is where we have always practiced and suggested. If we still do the same, the French Government cannot and will not annoy us. Having been approved by my chiefs for having inaugurated and followed this line of conduct, I dare hope that, with his well-informed mind that the new minister shall be satisfied with it.'

Mr. Wiallard is then convinced that he has done nothing for his part, against the French regulations, that he has done all the law allowed him to do, that not only it is impossible to increase his means of action, but that, even if possible, it would not be opportune.

Without trying to see through Mr. Wiallard's secret mind, I have said and I repeat that, from the testimony of all those who have seen him at work he puts forth a great diligence in the exercise of his functions. It seems also evident that in sending every year to France, at first with the assent of our agent, and then in spite of him occasional lecturers who, by their direct appeals are violating the French law so much more easily that they knew it less, the Department of the Interior has not in a small degree, contributed to indispose the French Government. But I am no less compelled to think that the annoyances which Mr. Wiallard, and Canada with him, had to endure in France, came from the most part, from his obstinacy in dispensing with a co-operation which, without in reality lessening his personal action, would have allowed him to dissimulate it, more than that, to conform it to the French laws, and that the cause of that obstinacy lies in a false idea of the situation, in a defect of character or in self conceit out of place, whatever it may be,—and if this opinion is well founded, it follows that Mr. Wiallard should not hesitate to admit that he has erred on certain points, and to loyally try, if requested the carrying out of programme which I suggest to you.

2nd. That it (this programme) shall have been previously submitted and agreed to by all the interested parties, including the French Government. What will be the use in fact, of this change of direction if we do not at first take care to remove the visiting misapprehensions and grievances? Whatever policy we may adopt, it is important that our agents be not exposed to a periodical repression which, while terrifying them, would sometimes induce them, to still more unfortunate resolutions, and nearly always inspires them exponents incompatible with our national dignity.

And that question of the agreement to be made with the French Government of the guarantee to be asked that our action legitimate as it remains and lawful as it may become, can be continuously exercised, without having to fear anybody's arbitrariness,—that question, I say, draws me to speak of disagreements which exist between the agent of your department and the General Commissioner of Canada.

Before 1903, we had as representative in France, but one General Commissioner, Mr. Fabre, which depended on the whole cabinet. In that year—and I hold that information from Mr. Wiallard himself—Mr. Wiallard was appointed assistant Commissioner with mission to specially attend to emigration. Still later on, Mr. Poindron was appointed Commercial Agent, by the Department of Commerce, which gave us the representatives in France. Mr. Fabre died two years ago, and after a few months interim fulfilled by Mr. Wiallard, the Laurier Government appointed the Hon. Phillip Roy as commissioner, with, I believe, better defined, if not, as I also believe more extended powers. On its occasion to power, of the present Government, last fall, Mr. Poindron, was dismissed, the commercial agency mingled with the Commissariat, and the Commissioner placed under the authority of the Minister of Commerce.

We then presently have in France, as in the past a sub-commissioner general who attends to emigration only, and not to Canadian affairs at large, but it moreover happens that the general Commissioner, himself, reduced to the rank of ordinary commercial agent, is not a general Commissioner, consequently has no authority, even in theory, over the sub-commissioner. When this anomaly that, when one complains to him of the sub-commissioner's acts, the personage responsible before the French authority for all the doings of the Canadian Government in France, has, to defend himself, to allege the independence of his subordinate. It is necessary to observe that such an excuse must inevitably look like a subterfuge in the logic eye of the Frenchman, that far from improving the situation it is rather of a nature to make it worse.

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On my arrival in France that question of the relations of the Commissioner with the sub-commissioner rather the emigration agent, or else the attendant to information on emigration had reached its acute phase with regard to the respective offices of two services. After inquiry, I wrote to you on March 5:—

‘Since some time, according to instructions from the Department of the Interior, I am studying on the spot the question of emigration from France and Belgium to Canada. As I intend to return to Canada about April 1, I shall wait until then to make a detailed report, the importance and the delicacy of the subject not allowing me to do it sooner. In the meantime, however, you will permit me to draw your attention on the dispute which broke out here in reference to the location of your agency and which really, concerns the whole policy of Canada in France.

In December last, Mr. Wiallard was instructed by your department to install himself at the Commissariat, 17-19 *Boulevard des Capucines*. If I am not mistaken, Mr. Roy objected to that installation, firstly because, owing to the policy of Mr. Wiallard, he did not believe he could assume before the French Government the responsibility of the Frenchman’s doings. Secondly because, the space available at the Commissariat was far from sufficient to lodge Mr. Wiallard and his personnel. Thirdly because, in Mr. Roy’s opinion, it would not be either wise or practicable to throw wide open to intending emigrants, offices fitted up for other purposes and, besides situated on the third floor.

Mr. Wiallard does not deny that there exists a dispute between himself and Mr. Roy, and contradictions between himself and the French Government, only he maintains to be right against the one and the other. He does not pretend either that he could find at the Commissariat the required space, in fact I am sure he would much prefer to have distinct offices.

Now the lease for the emigration office at No. 3 Isly street, expires on April 1, and if, by that time your instructions have not been modified, Mr. Wiallard shall have to obey them, to the great damage of Canada, I fear, as any sojourn, even temporary of Mr. Wiallard at 17-19 *Boulevard des Capucines* could but envenom matters.

Without intending for the present to say who is right and who is wrong in the case, and if you should eventually give up locating Mr. Wiallard with Mr. Roy, I would strongly recommend to you to instruct Mr. Wiallard to obtain an extension of his lease for three, and even if possible for six months. You would thus have time to receive my report and consider its conclusions.’

Mr. Wiallard, authorized according to my recommendation, caused his lease to be extended until November 1. I do not know what arrangements he has made since, but I know that, no matter what decision you may take about the office, it will not restore harmony between your agency and the Commissariat.

Should this be comprised in my functions, I would humbly advise that the representation which would be more convenient for Canada in a country like France, where we can make a considerable trade and where we are trying to create an emigration movement towards our country, is the one which we had before the abolition of the commercial agency, but under the direction or at least the control of the Commissioner, who would, of course, be the only one responsible to the Canadian Government. I would believe I am going out of the limits of my commission in saying that the joining the two services (Commerce and Emigration) under the same head seems to me to be essential, in the first place, in order to put an end to a conflict which cannot but be detrimental to us before the French Government, and as an immediate consequence, to give the benefit of our commercial propaganda to the cause of emigration which in France is by itself deprived of all the means of action allowed to it in England and even in Belgium. An active and intelligent publicity in favour of Can-

ada shall presently, nowhere give better results than in France, but nowhere also is it more important that our publicity by avoiding the wild, declamatory and false style of the American advertising, should present Canada under all its aspects, under all its true aspects, at the same time, that work shall only be done by one central office recognized by the French authorities and actively co-operating with all the elements of the French nation favourably disposed towards Canada. That is not, I know it, Mr. Wiillard's opinion, I so much more regret to differ from him, that he seems to have been personally the more consequence in the fulfilment of his duties, but it is impossible not to adopt the above opinion after having consulted on the spot all those who take an interest in the Franco-Canadian relations. It does not belong to me to indicate to you, how you could, in the present circumstances, arrive at that agreement with the Department of Commerce. It is enough for me to observe that the publicity office of the two services could be installed at the commissariat, and in another place, preferably a ground floor in a great thoroughfare, a museum and an information bureau which could be of use both to commerce and emigration.

Allow me to observe also that it would in advance nullify the result of my recommendations if you were to avail yourself of them to reduce the staff or the budget presently appropriated to the emigration propaganda.

The budget of your Paris agency since its creation is apparently as follows:—

	Francs.
1903 to March, 1904 (three months only)	4,560 80
1904-1905	20,784 10
1905-1906	12,661 90
1906-1907	13,206 50
1907-1908	20,752 70
1908-1909	41,344 95
1909-1910	58,741 50
1910-1911	61,033 55
1911-1912	65,275 00
	298,361 00

If, however, we recollect that the above budget comprises since 1908-1909 inclusively the salaries of the personnel, which were till then paid by the London offices, and since 1910-1911 the rent of the agency, previously under the charge of the commissariat, it will be noticed that it has not so much increased since 1904-1905. The personnel alone has last year received about thirty-five thousand francs, which leaves only thirty thousand francs on the 65,000 without mentioning the rent. Their budget may suffice for the actual work (in fact, and this admission is worth noticing, Mr. Wialard admits that excepting the period of economy, 1905-1907, the Department has in general granted him what he has asked), it would not be sufficient for the work which the publicity office of the commissariat and the service of exhibitions and information depending on it, would soon be called to accomplish on your account. It goes by itself that if the number of propaganda means authorized in France is much less than those employed in England, we will only be able to obtain results by using for the authorized processes the money that we are compelled to save on the others. There would be, for instance, no good reason for not establishing in some other towns, and even in certain provincial towns, museums and information bureaux like those at Paris. It is also to be noticed that for the last three years the publicity budget has been from one thousand to twelve hundred francs only per year, that the indirect and veiled publicity, of the kind which I believe we should adopt, would be far more profitable, but also probably more costly. The object of the concentration which I

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recommend would be, not to reduce expenses, but at first to derive a better result from the present budget, and the not allow the Canadian Government, and specially your department to expand an action, which, in the present situation, tends to the contrary, to its own destruction.

Eventually, the action thus organized of the Paris agency might be extended to Switzerland, Northern Italy, the Basque provinces of Spain.

Honest, well educated, thoroughly knowing the French life, the chief clerks of the agency, Mr. Foursin, and Belangèr, the former a Frenchman having spent many years in Canada, and having constituted himself at his own expense, one of the first apostles of Canada, in Europe, the latter a Canadian having lived many years in France, can both, I believe, render valuable services. It is to be regretted that they are not given, they are not asked, or if they are asked, that they are not required, to exert more initiative. Mr. Foursin, appointed seven years ago at \$900, has had no increase. The lower staff is cheaply paid.

The French districts where it seems that the work shall be the more profitable are Brittany, Savoy, the Basque provinces, the North, the Aveyron and Charentes. The influence of the farmer delegates, specially, will have there a more favourable opportunity than anywhere else. I shall, after Mr. Wiillard mentions the case of three Bretons from the vicinity of Pontivy, who, settled in Manitoba in 1904, have since gone at their own expense, to fetch among their relations, friends, and acquaintances of Brittany something like five hundred settlers. Now disseminated in Saint Claude, Haywood, Notre Dame-de-Lourdes, etc., also the foundation of Notre-Dame-de-Sovioe in 1904 by the Abbie Ferroux and twenty-five other Savoyards, which were afterwards joined by a greater number of their fellow countrymen.

If it has not been already done, it would be expedient to give satisfaction without delay the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique in reference to the premium. That company, composed of French people, and naturally more in favour before the government authorities of the country, is more than any other in a position to be useful to us in France, whatever may be the laws and regulations. Unless to add that it can also do us an incalculable harm in the official French circles, if we wish to give, at its expense, an advantage to the subsidized Canadian line, I say purposely, *at its expense*. In fact, to refuse the premium to the Compagnie Générale would be virtually to confer on the Allan Company an official character, a privileged situation, and thus draw towards it a movement created at a large cost by its not subsidized rival, so that, in many cases, the latter, would lose not only the premium but also the fare.

It has been already seen, incidentally, that the present agent is in favour of the abolishment of the propaganda premium or *bonus*. The reasons which he gives for it are rather contradictory, now in fact he states that the steamship agents, entirely relying on the work of the Canadian Government agents, do absolutely nothing to earn the premium, and farther on that the payment of such premium, in inciting to infractions, is one of the principal grievances of the French Government. The Combes circular (1905) would seem to corroborate this last assertion. All the rest on the contrary leads to believe in the almost absolute inaction of the steamship agents. It does not appear that, for the present the experiment of premiums which has been made in France may lead to conclude either to its maintenance or its abolishment. We could perhaps satisfy all exigencies and silence all criticism in paying the premium only to steamship agents who would have given proof of exertions, but the laws and regulations of the country,—two conditions which are imposed to the English agents, but which have not been up to now either one or the other, imposed to the French agents. One of the grievances of the French Government (we find it expressed in one of its circulars) is the necessity wherein it often finds itself to bring back people who have been deceived by the emigration agents. The most frequent abuse, on the part of the steamship agents, consists in sending the emigrant to the farthest point possible in the interior of Canada, in order to get the highest possible premium, no matter what may

become of the poor unfortunate man. Another abuse consists in speculating on the exchange of money, the steamship agents seldom taking less than 5f. 25 for one dollar, while the Parisian branch of the National Bank is satisfied with 5f. 18. The protestations which our agent repeatedly uttered, and which have already had the result of obtaining for the emigrant intended for the west the permission of a ten days' stop in the Province of Quebec, would have still more weight if they could be sanctioned by the suppression of the premium. I shall add that if, in France as elsewhere, the attraction of the premium may sometimes induce an agent to transgress the law of the country, the French agent on the other hand, is less than others tempted to send to Canada the scums of the French society, each French emigrant being supposed to carry with him his judiciary status.

Our agent reports that he often has demands of Canadian produce for school museums, he should be in a position to promptly and favourably comply with such demands.

Besides the above special recommendations, relative either to France or to Belgium, you will allow me, sir, to make you some others which may apply to both countries.

I hear from the agents at Paris and Antwerp, that the persons who directly apply to your department, in the French, Flemish or Dutch language, for information on Canada, usually receive their answer in English. It is useless to observe how little this process is apt to inform and draw foreigners, specially the Frenchman who had imagined that the French was one of the official languages of our country. In order to answer to every body in his own language, at least those of whom, as the Belgian and the French, we specially solicit to emigrate to Canada, it would be sufficient to have a couple of good linguists like Mr. Treau de Coeli in your department.

The Department of Commerce, in drafting its contracts with the navigation companies, should consult with the Department of the Interior with a view to the improvement of the conditions of transportation of the emigrants. Before this year, the Allan Company, which however has received from the Canadian Government, something like \$130,000 per year, and whose subsidy has since been, it appears, carried to \$200,000 a year, had no French cooks, and to tell the truth no interpreters on its ships, and for a twelve or fifteen days voyage, was charging the same price as other companies for a seven or eight days trip. A still more serious matter, the first sailing from Havre was delayed until the middle or the end of May, and the farm labourers recruited during the winter in view of the opening of the works, getting tired of waiting, were renewing their engagements in France. This year the *Sardinian* and the *Pomeranian* have been replaced by the *Ionian* and the *Scotian*, larger and more rapid. It appears that they have engaged French cooks on these new boats, and that the first sailing has taken place on April 27, but these improvements, besides incomplete of a rival service by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique. I cannot for my part understand why Canada expects the protection of its interests only from competition, when it has the right and is in a position to dictate its conditions.

There should be official and authorized interpreters, not only on subsidized steamers, but in all the landing ports and on all the railways where French is not usually spoken. One cannot realize the annoyance of every kind caused to the emigrants of French language by the insufficiency or even the total want of this service, in a country where they were told that they could everywhere be understood in their own language. I shall give only one example, Edouard Claude, his wife and nine children, and Eleonore LeRoy, with four children, from Orgeo, in the province of Luxemburg (in Belgium) having started for Halifax on the *Canada*, of the Dominion Line, on May 1, 1910, had so much to suffer from the totally strange customs of the ship that they landed with their eyes all reddened for having wept. They wanted to explain themselves, but there again nobody could understand French and they were sent back to Antwerp as affected with Trachoma. The Belgian Government and the deported

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families protested, the truth was found out, and the Canadian Government had to pay an indemnity. One of the deported was a farmer possessing fifteen to twenty thousand francs in ready money. A single incident of that kind may cause an incalculable injury to Canada. There is already at Winnipeg, I am told, one French and one Dutch interpreter, the latter being able to serve the Flemish. If the French or Belgian emigration increases ever so little an Anglo-Franco-Flemish interpreter will probably be wanted at Halifax.

The most part of our agents abroad have brought their families with them, besides that, having lost contact with Canada, they would have to begin a new life, they would not come back to this country without great expense. It is then important that they be not displaced except for the exigencies of the service and that they be not dismissed but for incompetency or dishonesty. As their salary is not high, and the work which is expected from them is hardly possible in their old age, it would equally be expedient, after a certain age, if not to pay them a pension, to employ them at Ottawa as writers or otherwise, in the offices from which the outside agencies depend.

The Department should, in future appointments, require from the titulary not only a perfect knowledge of the society but also a good general education. All over Europe intelligent training is regarded as essential for the exercise of certain public charges, specially of those offering a certain diplomatic character.

The drawing up of official literature being, in a publicity campaign, an element of the very first importance, one can not too much deplore the common incompetency of the French writers or translators of the Department of the Interior.

I do not hesitate to say that the style of most of the official literary production of the Canadian Government intended for countries of French language are far from doing honour to Canada. There are some which Mr. Wiillard had to conceal in the cellars of the Paris agencies in order not to let them be seen by the French people, even if he had himself to translate the English original, at the cost of heavy work. Our agents have something else to do, however, and most of the time they are after all bound to use the material at their disposal. The wall map which we distribute in the schools of France is drawn up partly in French, partly in English, and partly in I do not know what. In France, where ridicule kills, a country like ours should take care not to couple its name with grotesque publications of which Patagonia or Nigeria would be ashamed. If Canada can not do better by itself, it has only to take as a model the tidy publications of the Argentina or of many other countries, which without pretending to be New France's, have all the same found out the means to address French people in French. I remember having seen a pamphlet issued by Western Australia for the Universal Exposition of 1900, which would make the publicists of your department one of shame, if they were not past all shame.

At the present moment most of the publications sent to the countries of French language are literal translations of works expressly written for English countries. That imprints in them, not to speak of the mere blunders of translation, a general exotic character which offends and disposes the French reader. Just as good translators are not produced suddenly, it is not the first comer who can address all the different peoples according to their own tastes, their traditions and even their prejudices—for that it requires more judgment than some of your subordinates seem to possess. For instance, in the *L'Ouest Canadian* a translation of the pamphlet entitled *Western Canada*, which is most extensively distributed by your agents, a reference is successively made to the testimony of A. Baumak, formerly of Indiana; Philip N. Taft, Ira Sutton, formerly of Iowa, and of dozens of others, but not of a single Belgian or French settler. Is it not evident that if it was not rather intended to frighten the French and Belgian settlers with the prospect of loneliness (which certainly is not the end in view), it would have been wise to quote the testimony of French and Belgian

settlers? And what I say here about these two nations equally applies to the other European peoples. Some chapters of the pamphlet could remain; some others should be modified according to the countries.

One word also about distribution, some people seem to believe that the more you give them reading matter on your country the more information you give to the foreigner, no matter how heavy, confuse and most of the time, contradictory. If it be so in some countries, it is not the same in the countries of French language, where the clearness of a work is more appreciated, than its volume, and when they do not feel that it should be necessary to read a whole library to learn what could be contained in two or three hundred pages. At the time of my visit to Antwerp, for instance, I was painfully affected to see the quantity and nature of official literature intended for the Belgian and Dutch public. I quote:—

Dominion of Canada (in English only), a volume of 222 pages, balance from the Liege Exhibition (1905).

Canada in a Nutshell (a Dutch work with an English title; small pamphlet of 40 pages) 1911.

Vast fields open to Colonization and Industry, the Temiscamingue, *Province of Quebec*, pamphlet of 72 pages, issued many years ago by the Department of Colonization of the Quebec Government.

Canada de le Siecle Noveau (title literally translated from *Canada and the New Century*), 48 pages, 1906.

Canada—Practical advice to Settlers, 36 pages, 1911.

The Canada, 49 pages, 1911.

Canada, album of views of the show made at Crystal Palace, in London, on the occasion of the Coronation of 1911; explanations in English.

Annual Report of the general Colonization and Repatriation Society of the Province of Quebec for 1910, 59 pages.

Atlas of Canada (in French) and *Atlas van Canada* (in Flemish), 64 pages each, 1910.

L'Ouest Canadian, ce qui reste de micux dans l'ouest, an unconsciously ludicrous translation of the English title, *Western Canada, the Last Best West*, 42 pages, 1911.

Le Canada Occidental and *West Canada*, the monthly paper previously mentioned.

Of the above various publications, those of the Government of Quebec, I regret to say, are inferior to all as regards the style and accuracy. Among the others, some are excellent, some are useless, and therefore detrimental, for they only serve to upset the foreigner who reads them; some others at least clearly pernicious.

Your department should, it seems to me, stick, on such matters to the following rules:—

1st. Have its works written by persons well accustomed to translation and drawing up, and moreover well informed about the countries concerned.

2nd. Not to publish anything which has not been revised, as to the form and matter, by the interested agents.

3rd. Not to distribute anything for the provincial Governments which does not, if not perfectly, at least well enough come into the outline of the outline of the federal publications—specially nothing contradictory to them.

4th. Insist more on the ethnic and religious character and the economic situation of the different provinces, so as to allow the emigrants to guide themselves more knowingly.

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5th. Besides monographics of farming regions and other works of the same kind, which, however, should never have a useless repetition, stick to a limited number of publications which ought to be revised and corrected each year, an essential condition for a growing country so rapidly as Canada. Those publications would be:—

(a) After the model of the present atlas, a work of one hundred pages at the utmost about Canada, with a general map of the country and one of each province or territory.

(b) Under the same size, a pamphlet or thin book of not more than 50 pages, for each of the old provinces and of 50 to 75 pages for the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

(c) A pocket guide for the use of the Belgian or French settler, and even for the Italian, Swiss or Spanish emigrant, as the case may be.

As an example of conciseness, exactness and propriety, I shall mention the publications of the emigration office of the English government.

The co-operation of the Federal Government with the provincial authorities, specially those of Quebec, in France and Belgium is a matter which has been frequently discussed in Canada. Such a policy could evidently be adopted by the mutual consent of both powers. The Antwerp agent declares that he has many a time offered to the Quebec Government to distribute its literature, but that it did not even, to say the truth, take the trouble to answer him. The only answer that the same Government has ever made to identical advances of Mr. Wiillard was the sending of Mr. Deslauriers as emigration and placing agent, with the result which we know of. It seems true that the provincial authorities of Quebec not making any emigration propaganda in the other countries of Europe, do not see the necessity of doing any more in the countries of the French language. The pretended attempts that they have made in that way, have nevertheless, in the absence of any exact information and of any placing system, given so pitiful results that it is very doubtful whether we must, in the present circumstances, deplore their inaction. It has been contended (this is specially Mr. Wiillard's opinion) that the immediate direction of your agency by the Commissioner. To my mind, we should rather see in that fact a guarantee of security for the Federal government, that functionary receiving also a salary from the province of Quebec. To my mind, we should rather see in that fact a guarantee of security for the federal Government, for should the province ever decide to energetic measures,—which unfortunately, or not, is not for the present to be foreseen,—those measures, subjected to the same direction and control, will necessarily have to harmonize with yours and conform also with the French law.

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Since it is specially concerned in this matter,—would further directly profit by the work of the federal Government if the latter would more practice, in the French centres, the system established in Ontario and the English districts of Quebec for the placing of emigrants.

The appointment of French Canadian placing agents would have as a first result to facilitate to the emigrants from France and Belgium their installation in Canada. To see that the emigrant be properly treated on the steamers and may be understood in his own language on his arrival, that is necessary, but not sufficient; it is also necessary that he should from the start, be directed to the place the most favourable for the use of his resources and the display of his energies. For many immigrants the transition from the old civilization of Europe to life in Central Canada is too severe; the customs, the language are different, and even more perhaps the economic conditions—a triple difference by which a Belgian or a Frenchman who considered himself well off

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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.