

Why French People Do Not Emigrate

Regarding the well-known fact that the French do not emigrate, a few reasons have been given by Abbe Ernest Dimmet in the Literary Digest:

The French are no linguists. The very notion of foreign languages has a queerness for them; it makes them smile. There is an unreality about it. Some of my humbler friends in France who know that I use English as my chief literary medium find that fact hard to believe.

Germans, Slavs and Orientals are actually attracted by the pleasure of conquering a foreign tongue, and think nothing of the effort. The French regard the achievement as beyond their possibilities. It is amusing to see Frenchmen of the old school, who know Latin well, act as if languages much easier than Latin offered insuperable difficulties. You may say that the English are no linguists either, and yet emigrate.

But they mostly emigrate to countries where their own language is current. If they did not have relatives or friends all over the world they would demur before leaving home.

The French are not fortune makers. The history of a Carnegie or a Ford which has trebled the ambitions of many a young man arriving in America sounds to the average Frenchman as a fairy tale, but does not act as an incentive. Good food, a little wine, and no uncertainty about employment amply suffice for the happiness of most French people. Year after year I see tradesmen retiring from business as soon as they have a competency; the notion of adding to it till it becomes a fortune does not appeal.

The most powerful motive in the behaviour of the average Frenchman is independence like any other kind of independence. Englishmen have a fatalistic tendency and frequently show that gamblers' recklessness which they have passed on to Americans. And notwithstanding their passion for freedom they do not hesitate to accept strange situations. Many a time I have seen the relatives of a never-do-well in England decide with undemocratic kindness to pay his debts and support him to the end.

The prospects of such an old age would be unbearable to most Frenchmen. Early in childhood they are taught that one must never be a burden on anybody else, and even in adolescence they lay by in order not to take that hateful risk. Emigration may be a way of getting rich quick, but the story of one failure can also be enough to dampen courage, and such stories are numerous and supported by statistics from which the reader must infer that emigration is a form of gambling. Instead of having recourse to such desperate methods he limits himself to the only infallible one; he saves, with his eye everlastingly on the possible evil day. This tendency accounts for his preference for civil service jobs.

Finally, the Frenchman is a sentimentalist. This may sound strange to the many people who regard him as a cynic without realizing that cynicism is a sentiment turned sour and trying to counteract its own bitterness with a little humor. I feel certain that the lack of political sense of the French comes from their in-born belief in the loyalty of friends or allies. They are often naive to gullibility, and the foundation of naive is sentiment.

Silly Judgments

(Sarnia Canadian-Observer)

A judge of the Montreal court of sessions explained in an interesting address to a commercial club in that city how sometimes it was necessary to hand down a judgment that looked silly to the public, in order to conform with the law. The Quebec liquor law was especially at fault in this respect and he recounted an incident to illustrate this.

A man was prosecuted for selling liquor without a permit. Two government inspectors told how they had gone to the place with two friends, had ordered four John Collinses, were served properly and paid over the money to the accused. The lawyer for the latter listened intently to the evidence. "Any questions?" the judge asked this lawyer. There being none the prosecution completed the case for the crown.

Then the lawyer for the defence calmly requested that the case be dismissed.

"On what grounds?" inquired the judge.

"On the grounds that the court has not been told what a John Collins is," answered the lawyer. "It may contain liquor and it may not."

The judge had no alternative. He had to dismiss the case and his decision was upheld on an appeal.

As a private citizen, the judge might know what were the ingredients of a John Collins, but presiding on the bench he could only base decisions on what was brought out in evidence.

The case may be of value to government informers. Hereafter when trying to trap illegal sellers they will probably call for the straight varieties of the beverages.

RHEUMATISM DRIVEN OUT!

It should be realized Rheumatism is not inevitable if the poisonous acid fluids of the system are kept on the move, thus preventing the formation and deposit of painful crystals in the joints.

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This exclusive property of Phosferine is illustrated by the recent experience of Mrs. E. Brewster, who writes: "For months my husband was in terrible pain with Rheumatism in his feet, walking with agony until he tried Phosferine, and now all his Rheumatic pain has gone, and he says it is wonderful to walk without any pain." G, Greek Street, Hull.

The speedy expulsion of Rheumatism is something to be thankful for—apart from the saving in time and money, for it means that Phosferine has revitalized the body cells, regulated the blood pressure, strengthened the stomach and circulation, and maintained perfect health and "many happy returns" of Activity!

English Alphabet

The English alphabet, the origin of which has been a mystery, yields up its secret at last, observes the Christian Science Monitor in this editorial. Dr. George Lamsa and Smithsonian Institution scientists working together find the key in the Aramic, a Semitic language which spread through the Euphrates Valley about 900 B.C., and which came to be the native tongue of Jesus the Christ. The alphabet almost as it is known today was developed with every letter the picture of a familiar object. A was the face of the strong alpo or ox, once worshipped as a god and having that significance. B outlined a house of the period, C caught the camel's hump, D, more of a triangle in the Greek form, was the delta at the mouth of a river. What could be more natural?—Men began to spell in the terms of the simple things they could see.

It was hawta in this pictorial alphabet, outlining a trap used to catch foxes. I was aena, or the human eye. T was tara, door of a tent. Y was the human hand, fingers spread. The great alphabet mystery is surprisingly simple in the light of the new discoveries. Other discoveries, too, are on the way. Men's first speech, it is now agreed, consisted of exclamations of surprise, of fear, of reverence. Devotion was not difficult for early men. They had not then made themselves many inventions to trick and mislead them. It was easy for them to see that there was actually only one mighty power—Through the simple objects and simple time they looked with simplicity and saw—God!

Our nomination for the most useless thing in the world: A lapsed life insurance policy.

Why at 40 You Think You're "GROWING OLD"



It's Frequently Just an "Idea," Not "Old Age." And According to Scientists, May Be Something No More Alarming Than A Touch Of Acid Stomach

At about 40, many people think they're "growing old." They're tired a lot. Have headaches. Stomach upsets. Dizziness. Nausea.

Well, scientists say the cause, in a great many cases, is merely an acid condition of the stomach. The thing to do is simply to neutralize the excess stomach acidity.

When you have one of these acid stomach upsets, all you do is take Phillips' Milk of Magnesia after meals and before going to bed.

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DENMARK AND THE DANES

(By Prof. S. B. McCready)

Editor's Note: This is the fourth of a series of articles which were published recently in the Harriston "Review." While written specially for the "Review" and addressed to residents of Minto Township particularly, we believe they will be found interesting to many of the readers of this paper because the problems of the farm folk of Minto Township are the same problems that confront rural people throughout the Province.

In the first of these articles, I suggested that Minto Township has reached a point in its development requiring a new outlook. That from this time on it could not export readily very many more of its surplus population. In the third article I explained my interest in rural education and the reason for my visit to Denmark. In this article, I want to show a picture of Denmark and the Danes.

To me, Denmark is the most interesting country in the world. I believe it comes nearer to genuine democracy than even England. There is a far closer approximation to social, economic and political equality than we have in Canada or Great Britain. While there is a monarchy there is no privileged titled class. The barons of former days are gradually disappearing and their estates broken up for sale to small free holders. No new titles are granted.

Economically, they are a progressive people. They have a saying which discloses their philosophy regarding wealth—"That country is a good country which has few people with too much money; and fewer still with too little." That attainment of economic equality is a national ideal. They do not grow millionaires in Denmark, and they have no paupers.

Politically, they govern themselves very wisely. Their Upper House (corresponding to our Senate) is elected, as is their Lower House, on a proportional representation system of voting. This ensures freedom from corruption and an equitable representation of all parties. The present government is a union of Social Democrats and Liberal Lefts. Farmers are strongly represented. Senators are elected for eight year terms, half of them retiring every four years.

In social legislation they have been world-leaders. Nowhere are the aged, poor and unemployed, the unfortunate and helpless, the sick and needy better or more scientifically cared for by Society. Two thirds of the entire population, which means all the people except children, are covered by Sick Insurance, giving medical, hospital and convalescence care. It would take Ontario a long time to catch up to Denmark in social legislation.

What I have said about Denmark, applies equally to the other Scandinavian countries, namely Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. The fact is that our Scandinavian cousins have outstripped us Anglo Saxons in many respects. We should know more about their developments than we do: I would recommend that the Minto Township school libraries as well as the Public Libraries in Harriston, Clifford and Palmerston should keep it in mind to select books about these countries in their next Purchases. I heard one traveller remark that it was an unfortunate day for England when the Danes went back home about the time of King Alfred.

So much for their progressive democracy. Now a word about the country itself. As nearly every one knows it is a little country. It is about one twenty-fifth the area of Ontario though its population is practically the same, namely 3,500,000.



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To be more exact its area is 17,100 square miles, which is 133 Minto Townships. The same proportion of its people live on farms as in Ontario, namely about 35%. Its capital city, Copenhagen, is a little larger than Toronto, that is 700,000. It has no other cities to compare with Hamilton and Ottawa, but has twenty-two cities ranging between the population of Owen Sound and Kingston. There are a great many smaller towns and country villages much as we have in Ontario.

There are 206,000 farms in Denmark compared to 195,000 in Ontario (these figures include 1 acre farms) so of necessity they are much smaller. One half of Danish farms range from about 8 acres to 37 acres and one third from 38 acres to 150 acres. One fifth of the farms range from 1 1/2 acres to 8 acres. The soil on the whole is perhaps naturally not so good as that of Minto Township. Their weather has more moisture, less sunshine and more slush in winter than Wellington County. The Danish smallholder or farmer now aims to work from 15 to 17 acres. On this area he will keep about 6 cows. There are practically no tenant farmers in Denmark. Land ownership is a sort of religion.

The people are much like their close (?) cousins, the Scotch; thrifty, canny and devoted to education. They are lovers of the soil and natural born farmers. Unlike Minto Township with its admixture of English, Irish, Scotch and German (rapidly fusing through) they are a pure race. The Lutheran Church is the State Church and there is only about two per cent. of the population non-Lutheran. Uniformity in race and religion are probably factors in their disposition to co-operate.

Denmark has no minerals, coal or water power, so it has not developed industrially to a like extent with Sweden, Scotland or Germany. Agriculture has always been its basic industry. There is an extensive fishing industry and much shipping. As descendants of the Vikings they are still venturesome seafarers.

Though hard hit by the restrictions resulting from the Ottawa Agreements, they are very well disposed to England, their best customer. A great many Danes visit England on holiday and English is very commonly spoken. My intercourse was among school people largely, and nowhere had I any difficulty in securing what I wanted to know. As there are a great many Danes scattered throughout Canada, I found most people informed about our country. The principal of one Folk High School said "Canada is the country for the Danes. If the depression ever passes, we want our surplus farmers to settle in Canada."

They feel at-home here as I felt at home in Denmark. They are very hospitable. I wish a delegation of Minto farmers could have such a visit as I had. In the next article I propose to speak of their schools. I think the most valuable lesson that Denmark can teach Ontario (including Minto Township) is one respecting education. The greatest contribution that Denmark has made to the world is their Folk High Schools. These schools have been the mainspring of their wonderful co-operative enterprises.

First Old Maid—I believe that man over there is trying to flirt with me!
Second Old Maid—The old brazen fool. Wait until I call an officer.
First Old Maid—Don't call an officer, call a preacher.

Girls still marry for the same good reason—to get a home—but nowadays they never stay in it.

Pupil—Thanks for the wonderful memory training course you sent me, Doctor.
Doctor—Oh, forget it.

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The interest of seamen in Boy Scouts brings Vancouver troops some interesting visitors from time to time. To a meeting of the 7th North Vancouver recently came the Second Mate and the Wireless Operator of the S.S. Frederika Lensen. Their contributions to an interesting evening included some instruction in fencing.

All the Cub Packs and Scout Troops of the Wallaceburg District

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You, too, can also learn how. Here's how. Make a sketch of this man and money 4 inches wide. For the best sketch submitted, the choice of a Water Colour Landscape Course, or an Original Magazine Illustration, or a Political or Sporting Cartoon, or a Comic Drawing made by a professional artist will be awarded for the best sketch. This contest closes on February 26, 1936. Prizes for the next five best drawings, and a free lesson for all.

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HAVE YOU HEARD

HUMAN NATURE!

They say the world is round, and yet I often think it square; So many little hurts we get from corners here and there; But there's one truth in life I've found while journeying east and west,

The only folks we really wound are those we love the best; We flatter those we scarcely know, we please the fleeting guest, And deal full many a thoughtless blow to those we love the best.

Magistrate—Do I understand you to say that when you heard a noise you got out of bed, turned on the light, and went to the head of the stairs—that a burglar was at the foot of the stairs and you did not see him? Are you blind?
Witness (mopping his perspiring face and blushing furiously)—Must I tell the exact truth?
Magistrate—Yes, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Witness (slowly)—Well, my wife was in front of me.

Just think how many poor people were denied a horse and buggy in the old days because nobody had thought of this dollar down idea.

Mrs. Cassidy—My husband calls a spade a spade!
Mrs. Garner—So did mine—until he took one and started to spade up the garden and it broke in two.

A Fish Story: A fisherman got such a reputation for stretching the truth that he bought a pair of scales and insisted on weighing every fish he caught in the presence of a witness. One day a doctor borrowed the fisherman's scales to weigh a new born baby. The baby weighed forty-seven pounds!

Judge—What are your grounds for divorce?
Lawyer—Alternation of affections, Your Honor.

Negro Woman (applying for a position as cook)—"I see you've advertised in de newspaper, lady."
Lady (interrupting)—"But I advertised for a Scandinavian."
Negro Woman—"I knows dat,

head.

SCOUTING

Here · There Everywhere

A brother to every other Scout, without regard to race or creed

Many other Scout troops will envy a banquet enjoyed by the 2nd Tillsonburg Troop this winter—a feed of bear and venison. To make the evening complete, the donor, Mr. C. B. Priddle, told stories of winter hunting in the north, and gave some pointers on the cooking of game.

The Cuerpo Nacional de Scouts Costa Rica, otherwise, the Costa Rican Boy Scouts Association, has been recognized and registered at the Scout International Bureau in London. The South American Republic makes the 48th Boy Scouting country now recognized, the British Empire being counted as one.

Scouts of St. Paul's Troop, Fort William, gave a colourful demonstration of scoutcraft at a regular dinner meeting of the Gyro Club, at the Royal Edward Hotel. The boys did lashing such as used in the construction of temporary bridges, some fancy knot tying, Semaphore signalling, and put on a number of Scout games.

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All the Cub Packs and Scout Troops of the Wallaceburg District

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Visitor—So you are building a new house, eh? How are you getting along with it?
Man—Fine. I've got the roof and the mortgage on it, and I expect to have the furnace and the sheriff in it before fall.

Teacher—"Robert, what do they raise in Ireland?"
Robert—"I know, but I don't want to say it. Mother tells me I mustn't talk rough."

When Silas Stubblefield, of Brushville, who owned a farm and was bequeathed another says one never can tell when misfortune will strike.

Patrick (visiting hospital)—And what might be your trouble?
Patient—Tonsillitis. Got to have my tonsils cut out.

Patrick (turning to another patient)—And you?
Second Patient—Blood poisoning. They are going to cut off my arm.

Patrick—Good night. This is no place for me. I've got a cold in my head.

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