

The other figures registered by the census are of equal importance. The value of agricultural products, extent of land cleared and under cultivation, value of real estate and of all that constitutes the wealth of a nation, or of a locality, are carefully computed and digested, and these statistics often serve as a basis, or as memoranda, in the distribution of public moneys. As it would be unjust and unskilful to underrate, so would it be dishonest to exaggerate the facts. A census in short should contain the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. That honesty is the best policy will prove true in this as in all instances. They who, through the sordid fear of contributing a fair quota to the support of government, attempt to defraud the State, only cheat their own section of the Province for the benefit of the other; they cheat their own district and municipality to the advantage of every other district and municipality, and ultimately rob themselves. Their share of the public grant proving inadequate, they must of necessity overtax themselves to meet the deficiency, and so run into the very danger they had wished to avoid.

But the desire to see this country take its proper place among those of the continent, ought to be an incentive strong enough of itself to cause the spontaneous removal of every obstacle in the way.

Let the intelligent and active men in every locality watch over this important work. They may detect many errors, which are sure to creep in, spite of the utmost care and good faith of the enumerators. It must be borne in mind that the opportunity will not again present itself in ten years, and that during this period the legislative wisdom of the country will have to be guided by the result.

We may add, while on this subject, that by a clause in the Act the enumerators are authorized to furnish printed schedules to be filled up by the occupants of every dwelling or part of dwelling in cities, towns and such other places as the Office of Statistics may judge proper. These blank forms shall be delivered during the week immediately preceding the second Monday in January, and it shall be the duty of the enumerator, or his deputy, to call for them on that day, or so soon after as possible.

Householders ought to see that these schedules be not mislaid, and should fill them carefully, without omitting any one actually living in the house, or temporarily absent; for they will find in the blank a column ruled purposely for the latter. It will be necessary to see that it be returned to the officer, after having entered correctly all the information required—the age, national origin, religious belief, number of children attending school, &c., &c.; all these data are of statistical importance. Trusting to the kind indulgence of our readers, we have given these details in the hope that they may be of some use. It must not be forgotten that any one refusing to answer the questions, or giving false information, is liable to be fined in a rather heavy penalty.

Since the above was in print the following documents have appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*.

### **Pastoral Letter of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal on the Census.**

The following letter was recently read from the pulpits of the churches in the Diocese:—

We believe it to be our duty to inform you that in January a census will be taken of the whole Province.

You must know that the Commissioners charged with this duty are obliged to conform to the law, under pain of fine and imprisonment. They must, among many other things, take down very exactly the name, the sex, the condition and occupation of all the persons who live or work in their district, or who are not absent from it but for a certain period.

You will have then to answer all their questions, so that nothing be missing, to the inquiries they are strictly obliged to return to the Government, which, by the way, is but doing what is done in other countries. Do not forget that you will be yourselves exposed to fine and imprisonment, should you withhold from them what they have the right to ask.

We can certify to you that in this, there is no question of taxing you, neither of enlisting you for the purpose of sending you to war; for the end the Government have in view in taking this census, is a full knowledge of the resources of the country, the better to work them for the good of its happy inhabitants.

Religion cannot but gain by this development of all the resources Providence has so liberally bestowed upon us. We should in consequence second the efforts of those who are making agriculture, commerce and industry flourish; because this country will be the more happy in proportion as the population settling upon its soil is moral, and endowed with habits regulated by religion and morality. Therefore will special questions be put to you on those points.

Besides, religion imposes upon us all obedience to the laws under which we are governed; and they who resist temporal power, resist God himself, who, in His advisable Providence, has never failed to regulate the order of human societies. You will therefore make it a duty to obey the census law as all others.

You know moreover that it is always forbidden to lie. It would therefore be a culpable lie to mislead on this occasion the officers of the Government, who are legitimately authorized to take all the necessary information in order to fulfil the purpose of the law. We must all therefore make it a duty of conscience to tell the truth, and all the truth, in answering such questions as may be put to us on the subject of the census in question, and in doing this with good intentions we will have the merit of accomplishing a religious duty.

We shall at the same time be doing an act of true patriotism, ever blessed by religion. We must therefore compute so exactly that none of us will be missing from the ranks of our nationality, not even the little children who will there figure as the hope of our country. It is evident that we will like to show ourselves on this great scene in numbers, so that all may know that we have arms enough to till this vast country, and that we wish to keep for ourselves this fine heritage, bequeathed to us by our religious fathers. May our unfortunate countrymen dying of misery and weariness in a foreign land, return to us on hearing what happiness we enjoy on our native soil. (1)

### **Notice read by the Anglican Lord Bishop of Montreal in Christchurch Cathedral:—**

Before commencing my sermon, I wish to say a few words to you respecting the Census, now being taken,—as I have also desired my clergy to speak to their respective congregations:

I have received several notices which have been issued by the Commissioners, who are charged with the responsible office of taking the Census for this city, and I wish to call your attention to the very great importance that must attach to the accuracy with which the papers left at every house should be filled up. You will see a notice on this that the Legislature has affixed a penalty to all who shall neglect or refuse to fill up those schedules to the best of their knowledge and belief,—which penalty the enumerators have press orders rigidly to enforce. I trust, however, that better motives, than the fear of incurring such a risk, will influence you all in this matter—since it is only where faith can be placed in their accuracy, that such returns can be of the slightest value. Those of the last Census were so notoriously, on the very face of them, incorrect, that they could never for an instant be relied on, as of any authority whatever. The Census Commissioners for this city,

(1) Want of room prevents us from giving the Pastoral Letter of the Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, which has also appeared in the same journal, on the Census.