

THE QUEBEC SITUATION

One of the most masterly and delicate passages in Dr. Parkin's address was his study of the situation of the Province of Quebec in regard to enlistment. He counselled patience with the masses of the French-Canadian people, who had a great many fine traits of character, but who were not informed on public affairs. Their education was limited and their reading meagre. If they knew that the rights and liberties they enjoy were secured to them by treaty arrangement between Britain and their motherland of France, they would not hesitate to defend these to the uttermost. Therefore those who keep these people in ignorance of public affairs have the greater sin. The coincidence contained in the fact that Quebec is the most exclusively Catholic province in Canada, and at the same time the farthest behind in voluntary enlistment requires some special explanation in view of the fact that people of that faith in some other lands are fighting with great valor. Who is responsible for the Quebec situation?

A CANADIAN INVENTION

A lady from Paris, Ontario, visiting in one of the Western States some years ago, was asked by one of the kind of people who suppose that Canada was a sort of outlandish place, "Have you telephones in Canada?" She replied that Canada not only had telephones but that the telephone was invented in Canada, and that the first spoken message ever transmitted was from the neighboring city of Brantford, where Dr. Bell, the inventor, lived, to her home town of Paris seven miles away. This was politely disputed, and perhaps the lady was suspected of consciously or unconsciously making a mistake. But this fact as to the invention and use of the telephone has been confirmed by the inventor himself, who though resident for some years in the States, came back recently to Brantford to be present at the unveiling of a monument erected by the citizens in commemoration of the inventor and the invention. Incidentally we might say that Brantford did well to build the monument during Dr. Bell's life-time. This is far ahead of putting a wreath on his coffin. During the celebration in Brantford the great inventor related his early struggles and told how he had driven over to Paris and had heard there first of all with distinctness messages spoken in Brantford. He recognized the voice of his father at the Brantford end of the wire although he had not expected him to speak over it. "We had won the victory," says Dr. Bell. Not long afterwards he left for the States, where capital was more readily available. When in a pastorate in Paris years afterwards I knew an old gentleman of somewhat ample means who had been offered a third interest in the invention for a thousand dollars. But he declined to invest on the ground that "the thing was only a toy." A third interest for that amount would probably have established a world's record in remunerative investments.

DOMINION ELECTIONS

Canada is now in the throes of an election for representation in the House of Commons at Ottawa. The Senate is not an elective body, and is generally regarded as harmless, but in reality is possessed of powers which under certain conditions might be a menace to the principles of true democracy. It is to the credit of Senators, however, to say that they understand the genius of Canada and seldom offend by doing anything radical. Democracy, of course, can run wild as