

What Canadian Editors Think.

A DYING NATION.
(The Catholic Record.)

IF the French Government is trying hard to do the Church to death in the unfortunate Republic the French people themselves are doing the country to death by a slow but sure process of suicide. When the birth-rate of a nation is below the death-rate it needs no demonstration to prove that the country is dying. It may be a lingering death or it may be a galloping consumption. The result is inevitable. A people's richest assets are numerous healthy sons and daughters: its heaviest liabilities are the vacant seats at the family table. France is the only nation whose living wealth is becoming impoverished. Nor is this decadence a thing of a single generation. It has been going on steadily for a century. In a hundred years the birth-rate has fallen from 32 per 1,000 to 19.7. Since 1900 the decline has continued at a deplorable rate until last year the balance was on the debit side—the deaths exceeded the births by 20,000.

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THOSE SUFFRAGETTES.
(Vancouver World.)

ON the whole the Imperial Government seems to be in rather a tight place. To grant woman suffrage now would not only be unconstitutional but would almost necessitate a general election in which, if history repeats itself as it has invariably done hitherto, the beneficiaries would use their new rights to turn out the ministry which granted them. Worse than that, surrender would be an object lesson on a very large scale to every discontented faction in the country, a demonstration that one had only to keep the London police awake long enough to get everything one wanted. On the other hand not to grant woman suffrage means that the police will continue to be kept awake.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME.
(Victoria Colonist.)

IT is singular that no one can say with any certainty what is the origin of the word Canada. There is an old explanation, recently revived, which says the Spaniards, in speaking of the then little known country, said "Aca Nada," meaning thereby "nothing here." To this there seems to be two objections. One of them is that an ejaculation would hardly become the name of a country, unless someone wrote it on a map, and there is no reason to suppose that any one did, and the other is that Aca is not the Spanish for "here," but means "hither." Another explanation is that it is a corruption of the Indian word "Kannatha," meaning a collection of houses, and was applied by the Indians to Quebec, not as a name but for purposes of description. Indian names are usually, perhaps always, only descriptions. If Kannatha means a collection of houses, there were probably many kannathas, but it would be quite natural for the first explorers to connect it with the place to which they first heard it applied. Another explanation is now offered, namely that in old Spanish Canada (accented on the second syllable) means a gorge or valley, and hence that the expression "Tiera de la Canada," appearing on some Spanish maps, means "land of the valley," quite a national appellation to be given to the valley of the St. Lawrence, which is par excellence, the great valley of the Atlantic coast.



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