

The population of Canada, at the present time, is estimated at about 7,000,000, of which number approximately 2,000,000 are of French origin. Their great stronghold is, of course, the province of Quebec, containing as it does the bulk of their race. The French population is augmented through immigration to so small a degree that it is practically negligible. On the other hand, of the 300,000 immigrants who entered Canada during the past year, considerably more than half were from the United States and the British Isles. Although the French of the Dominion have had and still have a remarkable birth-rate, the odds are so strongly against them that they must abandon the idea that they will ever prevail by force of numbers. Their future is assured, but it is becoming increasingly evident that Canada will never again become French and that the Anglo-Saxon will remain irrevocably in a majority.

Another line of cleavage exists between the two races. If we except the Irish element, which is quite considerable, it may be said that, speaking generally, the French of Canada are Roman Catholic and the British Protestant. This is one of the outstanding facts in the political situation of the Dominion. So great is the control of the Roman Catholic Church over the lives of the French-Canadians that it may be regarded as the principal factor in their evolution. Immediately following the conquest by Britain, the Church, convinced that the only way to keep the race French was to keep it Roman Catholic, adopted a policy of isolation as a means of safeguarding a racial individuality threatened on all sides by the forces of the New World. Dispersion and absorption are the dangers which have unceasingly menaced the unity of the Canadian French. In its efforts to segregate its people from the rest of America, the Church determined wisely to devote all its energies to maintaining its hold over the souls already belonging to it, rather than to attempt the more difficult task of making converts in the enemy's camp. To secure this end, the Church has multiplied the barriers preventing its people from coming

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