

partial, stand in the way of a general good understanding, and the great object of diplomacy is to overcome it, by giving a due dominance to the general interests of both countries.

The decision of the Pope that the Roman Catholics of Manitoba are entitled to Separate Schools will surprise no one who has noted the views expressed by Leo XIII. on the Belgian school question. In the case of that country he condemned precisely such an arrangement as has been made for Manitoba. If we may trust the published abstract of the Pope's conclusion on the question submitted to him, his decision is based on a historical view of the case, which non-Catholics would regard as stronger ground than an *extra cathedra* deliverance. But his view of the historical evidence is not likely to be accepted either by Manitoba or the Dominion, and there is no reason to believe that it will lead to the annulling of the settlement arrived at. But it will, by supporting the contention of Bishop Langevin, make such of the Roman Catholics of Manitoba as are favorable to separate schools, believe that they have a grievance, which the civil power refuses to redress. To that extent, the question is re-opened. At the last general election, the Roman Catholics of Quebec refused to back Manitoba's demand for separate schools. If the politicians take the ground, as they probably will, that when the Catholic population of Canada decides against separate schools, that decision is one against which they have no mandate to appeal, the question will no more divide parties. In this light, what looks like an appeal to the Pope for a decision on the contention, which is now given, appears unfortunate. But if the appeal was confined, as it probably was, to a complaint against certain of the clergy for undue interference in the elections, it would not be without excuse.

THE SEALING QUESTION.

On technical points, the sealing experts of the United States, Great Britain and Canada, at Washington, have reached a general agreement. The fact that there has been a great decline in the Pribyloff herd is established; but it was impossible to show the precise ratio of the decrease. The number of seals at present on the islands, is loosely put at "from three to five times" less than it was in 1884. It looks as if these figures covered a difference in the opinion of the experts, and they suggest that the Americans may have contended that the decrease represents five to one, while the British experts did not allow it to have been more than three to one. As a common agreement on any specific figure was not possible, the difficulty was dealt with—it can hardly be said to have been got over—by saying in effect that the decline might have been three to one, or it might have been five to one. There is no attempt to say, with a nearer approach to accuracy, what it was. But the lower of the two numbers named is high enough to show that the herd is diminishing at a ratio which might, in a short time, end in the catastrophe of practical destruction. This fact agreed upon, it becomes important to know what is the cause of this decline in the number of seals? The experts tell us that it is not due to killing male seals on land, the polygamous habits of the animals permitting one male seal to serve several females; to the killing of females at sea the mischief is admitted to be due. The conclusion is reached that the herd can only be kept up if the destruction of females be less in number than the increase by birth of seals that are reared to maturity. With the decline in the number of animals, pelagic sealing, the cause of the mischief, declines, and is

reaching a perilous condition, the catch at sea being reduced in a greater degree than the herd. Perhaps it is superior wariness, the result of excessive hunting, which enables the seals to show some slight power of recuperation, but not enough to save the race, in its past efficient condition, under present conditions of exposure.

Both the United States and Canada are interested in pelagic sealing, and, it would now seem, in restricting it; but their interests are not the same in extent, the catch at sea of Canada being much greater than that of the United States. And as the United States has the monopoly of killing the animals on land, there is another difference in the attitude of the two countries towards the sealing enterprise. It is in the power of the United States to prescribe any conditions it pleases for pelagic sealing by its own subjects; but Canada can only be dealt with by agreement. Will such an agreement be reached?

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN ONTARIO.

A summary of the mineral production of Ontario for 1896, given in the report of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, shows the aggregate value of such production for the year to have been \$5,235,003; the number of hands employed 5,010 and the amount of wages paid out at \$1,521,726. Subdivided into metals and minerals, structural materials and other products, we find the values of products as under: Metals, \$963,288, of which sum iron and nickel appear at about \$850,000 each; copper and gold at \$180,000 each. Petroleum and other oils, or derivatives, are put down at the large sum of \$1,955,295; natural gas, from 141 wells, \$276,710; salt, from 14 salt works, \$204,910. Cement is a considerable item, while stone, lime, brick and tiles mount up in value to a million and a half. Particulars are given in the following table:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. \$	Employees.	Wages. \$
Building stone, rubble, etc.	....	394,000	780	273,000
Cement, natural rock..brls.	60,705	44,100	56	15,200
Cement, Portland .. "	77,760	138,230	120	48,400
Lime	1,880,000 bushels	220,000	430	85,000
Drain tile.....number	13,200,000	144,000		
Common brick .. "	105,000,000	577,000	1,850	306,000
Pressed brick, plain "	10,774,400	88,945		
Pressed brick, fancy "	1,256,600	9,910		
Roofing tile	170,000	6,800	180	60,824
Terra-cotta .....	....	24,190		
Sewer pipe.....	....	49,875	41	17,774
Pottery .....	....	104,000	128	39,000
Petroleum.....imp. gals.	27,380,588	....	....	....
Illuminating oil ..	11,342,880	1,263,230		
Lubricating oil ..	2,283,047	204,946		
All other oils ..	7,821,262	340,054		
Paraffin wax	1,532,671 lbs.	76,250	351	190,740
Fuel product .....	....	70,815		
Natural gas .....	....	276,710	87	47,527
Salt	44,816 tons*	204,910	173	50,650
Gypsum.....	3,500	10,500	....	....
Calcined plaster ..	700	10,250	....	....
Graphite	650	13,000	15	2,250
Iron.....	28,302	353,780	125	47,000
Nickel.....	1,948	357,000	485	247,151
Copper	1,868	130,660	189	91,210
Gold.....ozs.	7,154	121,848		
Totals.....	....	5,235,003	5,010	1,521,726

* Net tons of 2,000 lbs.

The production of pig iron during the year was 28,302 net tons, all by the Hamilton iron furnace; value, \$353,780, or about \$12.50 per ton. To produce this, 51,188 tons of ore was required, of which 35,868 tons was United States ore, the remaining 80 per cent. being Canadian, namely, a mixture of magnetic, hematite and bog ores, mostly raised during the year. It is satisfactory to learn from the report that the deposits of hematite and specular ores in the townships back of Bruce Mines are being explored and developed; and "it is confidently expected that during