

THE RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE OF ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS.

The Italians in Canada are supposed to be Roman Catholics, but this is simply a delusion. We confront in this country the same condition and problem as in Italy.

We can divide the Italians religiously into four classes.

1. Business and professional men—lawyers, doctors, artists, musicians, etc. These are what the Italians call "intellectuals," and they would be offended if asked whether they believe in God, because their idea is that religion is for women of the lower classes and for stupid people only. They are about two per thousand.

2. A very few Socialist laborers, who are opposed to all religions, probably because they once had experience of the Roman Catholic church and have seen her at work, a work destructive of all national forces and aspirations. These also are about two per thousand.

3. A small minority of true Romanists, who attend to their religious duties because convinced that they are in the right church. These are five per cent.

4. A great majority, say 90 to 95 per cent, whose only test of their religious faith is the fact that they have been told of having been baptized in the Roman Catholic church. These never attend religious services and have no creed or religious life.