

Thus, the amount of assistance granted by the School Commission, to all our religious houses which impart education, does not reach the insignificant sum of \$4,700 annually.

That which is true for schools and for education is equally true for the hospitals and for the care of the sick.

In all civilized countries of the world the governments and the municipalities are held to provide education for the people and care for the pauper sick, as a primary and imperative duty. Some of the municipalities of the large cities in Europe devote to these objects millions annually.

In Quebec the care of sick Catholic paupers, as well as the education of youth, falls almost entirely upon our religious communities; the total sum which they expend annually for these two objects attaining the enormous figure of almost \$136,000. In other words, that our religious communities completely rid the government and the municipalities of this annoying task and this enormous expense, by means of their own revenues.

Let us suppose for a moment that, for one reason or another, our religious houses should cease to exist, on whom would devolve the task of providing the costs of public education and the outlay demanded by the care of the sick, the invalid, and the orphan? Evidently on the Provincial Government and the Quebec Municipality.

Whence comes this enormous sum of \$136,000 spent annually by our religious houses?

This sum is raised at Isle-Jesus, situated 180 miles from Quebec, at the Cote Beaupré, at the Isle-aux-Oies, at St. Joachim, at the Canardiere, &c., and from the boarding fees of pupils, the majority of whom are from the rural districts.

And as the total revenues of the property, real and personal, possessed by the religious houses within this city, makes but a trifling sum, it appears that they contribute annually to the local capital and circulation a sum equal to \$136,000 annually