

be defective: members know that it is possible to have every child taught to read and write. Why do they not enact the legislation that will effect that? Because the hierarchy wills otherwise. Claiming to be self-governing, in the foremost subject of its duties, the legislature of Quebec is dictated to by an outside organization. What about Ontario? Is the live question there not merely Separate schools, but French schools? In the Prairie Provinces and those down by the Atlantic is not the voting of public funds to support Catholic schools the most perplexing demand that faces their legislatures? Is it better at Ottawa? Why does a priest representing a foreign government dwell there, and have every bill affecting the interests of the society whose robe he wears, submitted to him for his approval? Is that consistent with self-government? You know Papal aggression is increasing, that concessions once asked as favors are now claimed to be rights, that demands are imperiously made and the people's will overborne. We see a party calling itself Nationalist, growing daily in strength, working to destroy all that is distinctively British in the Province of Quebec. In whose interests does that party exist? Why, when the need for one is so great is a Dominion marriage law not passed?

The centre of this disturbing element is in the Province of Quebec, and to realize the power of that element you must have some idea of its strength. There are 2,500 priests, 25 monastic orders of men numbering 3,000, 65 orders of women with over ten thousand members. Including postulants, there are fully 20,000 men and women under vows to advance the rule of their church. To do so they have wealth that cannot be estimated. The heads of several orders could sign cheques for a million dollars. Greater by far than the number of ecclesiastics, more powerful in extending their sway than their enormous wealth, is the vast body of electors who obey them.

WHAT THE PRIESTS RELY ON.

It is not on musty documents of the past the priests place their reliance for the privileges they claim, but in their hold on the electorate of Quebec. Of the habitants the