

learned none of the churches are thinking of withdrawing from the effort.

2. That the work of God is at a standstill is not characteristic of the French missions only. We have missions, not only in Quebec, but in Ontario, also, that are not advancing. It is as true of missions among English-speaking people in the Eastern townships, and in other parts of Quebec, as it is of the French missions, that they are declining. The causes may be different, but the effect is the same.

3. Examine that part of our work that is not missionary. Take up the combined Minutes. Open on the tables of membership in any Conference. Take any district as it may happen, run your eye along those parallel lines of increase and decrease, and notice how the figures keep abreast of each other, and how many of the circuits that have none of the hindrances that beset the French missions report no increase. We are not thinking of giving up the work. The causes which operate to produce this state of stagnation, if I may so term it, in Ontario, are active in Quebec. Interest in religious matters generally seems to have ebbed. There exists to-day great indifference on the part of the outside world, and apathy in the church. The secularity of the times is appalling. Mammon and politics engage men's attention more than religion. Should we be utterly discouraged if the French missions languish?

*Real Value of
these
Missions*

Furthermore, briefly, it is affirmed that these French missions are worth more than they seem to be on a superficial examination, for

1. The returns in the Annual Minutes include only adult communicants, and not children nor adherents, of whom there is a considerable number.

2. That Canadian Catholics embracing Protestantism find themselves in circumstances that require them to leave the