It is a Papal not a French Quebec that Menaces Canada.

BY ROBERT SELLAR

There is a disturbing and powerful element at work in the political life of our country of which all are conscious, yet which is rarely alluded to in public. When spoken of, either by the press or on the platform, it is with bated breath and in an apologetic manner. This is the more strange, seeing the subject so gingerly handled is of the highest importance. Our public men will speak by the hour on tariffs, opening of new channels for commerce, developing the resources of the wide country Providence has entrusted to our care, discourse at large on Empire relations, yet will leave the subject in question untouched.

The future peace and prosperity of the Dominion depend on the foundations we are now laying. Are we making sure that the institutions we are now shaping will ensure to coming generations government by the people and for the people, or are we submitting to encroachments which will inevitably lead to Canada being brought subject to a body of ecclesiastics whose sole aim is the aggrandizement of their church? Whatever shackles the working of self-government, whatever threatens to destroy it, calls for the earnest consideration of every lover of Canada. What matters material wealth to Canada, increase of commerce, and population, adding railway to railway, canal to canal, if it is to be ruled not by its people, but by a church? Take a single instance as a test. Is it true or not true, that even at this hour the legislature of Quebec is impotent to work a reform in its school system? It is acknowledged by all to