

there were only two genuine forces in Europe, to wit, the secret societies and the Catholic Church, and the same remark, *mutatis mutandis*, might very well be applied in Canada to the Orange Order and the Catholic clergy. In any case, the result of the outbreak in Manitoba was to solidify the Orange body as it had never been solidified before, and from that time out for fully twenty years, from 1870 to 1891, the fate of the several governments of the Dominion depended to a most unusual degree, as far as Ontario was concerned, on the action of the Orange Order.

REPORTER. How did they come to exercise such influence?

SIR RICHARD. Partly from their numerical strength, partly from their excellent organization. It is not very easy to obtain perfectly accurate statistics in such matters, but I have been assured by parties of high standing in their ranks that, including the Sons of England, the Order can count nearly, if not quite, two thousand lodges of one kind or another, pretty evenly distributed over some seventy or eighty ridings, in Ontario alone, each with an active membership of some fifty on the average, not to speak of a number who have passed and retired from active membership. This would mean some hundred thousand voters out of half a million, and, what is more, would imply the existence of some twenty or thirty standing committees in each riding, meeting regularly and in secret, and acting together. Well directed, such an organization constitutes a most formidable political engine and one which can hardly fail to hold the balance of power in any evenly divided constituency. So far as my own observation goes, I do not think the estimate of their number is at all exaggerated.

REPORTER. Perhaps you could state how they affected the several elections you speak of.

SIR RICHARD. Certainly. To begin with, both friend and foe were pretty well agreed that it was to them the Liberal party owed their success in 1872, when they carried Ontario by a large majority, in spite of the fact that times were very prosperous and that several prominent