

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 1907

PARIS, Jan. 12.—The French Government, it is reported, has notified the Bishop of Tarbes that the Lourdes Grotto and the property connected with it will be sequestered under Separation Act.

Some time ago the property in connection with the shrine was turned over to a French liability company. It now appears the government regards this action as a subterfuge to evade the conditions of the Separation Act. The turning over of the grotto would practically spell ruin to the district apart from the serious loss of contributions made to the church by the thousands of people who visit Lourdes every year and they have to be fed and lodged. The entire country side is dependent on the pilgrims. If the grotto should be closed permanently Lourdes would be reduced to a poor small town.