

ties and minorities is not necessarily determined by the number on either side; but I am also aware that if I am in a minority I should not attempt to magnify my minority beyond what it is. Give justice to one congregation; but do not let the one call itself one hundred. When wild statements are made in the newspapers as to the numbers of the dissentients it is only fair that we should know the facts, now and here, especially as there is not a public document anywhere in which that information can be had. If you turn to the Canadian Almanac you find the numbers of ministers and congregations of every denomination in Canada except that of the Synod of which Mr. Lang is Moderator. Even after all the efforts made yesterday by Mr. Macdonnell and by members of the Committee, we failed to get the information. We learned, indeed, that there were 13 ministers present at the last meeting of their Synod, but Mr. Lang is perfectly well aware that quite a number of those could not be constituent members of Synod, because they were retired ministers; that, perhaps, only about half of the thirteen were ministers of congregations in Quebec and Ontario. That Synod, then, must still be represented by the algebraic formula of X, an unknown quantity. This is not our fault, because we have asked very respectfully and earnestly for the information, believing that it is due to us and to the Committee that the facts should be given. Does this House incorporate any society till it knows the truth as to its numbers and property? It would be well, surely, as every other Church gives those facts in published minutes, in year books and in almanacs, that the Synod X should follow the well understood practice. While Mr. Macdonnell was twitted with "wanting to know," it is quite evident that Mr. Lang knows more about our Church than we do. He is amazed at the small number of our petitions compared with the number of our congregations. He sees a contradiction between Mr. Fleming's statement that we have about 1,000 congregations and Mr. Morris' statement that we have more than 700 ministers. I see no contradiction. It is well known that there are at all times vacant congregations, and it is also well known that some ministers have two congregations. There is not the slightest shadow of contradiction. The statements of those two gentlemen, as anyone who knows them might readily believe, were perfectly and literally accurate. With regard to the number of congregations petitioning, it is a well understood principle that silence gives consent. Has any one of those thousand congregations petitioned against our legislation? Not one. There are some dreadful people, it seems, in our Church, called Voluntaries, and Mr. Lang thinks that these are opposed to our action. If Voluntaries exist anywhere they are to be found in the Metropolitan Presbytery of Toronto. It is one of our 33 Presbyteries, and it alone has five times as many ministers as this so-called Synod. Well, that Presbytery met the other day, and unanimously and heartily agreed to petition, and it has petitioned, in favour of our Bills. Every Presbytery, as it meets, will do the same,