

Union itself, from which would radiate influences throughout the rest of the country which many could not contemplate without anxious apprehension. This apprehension is all the better grounded when the rapidity of the growth of the French Catholic element on this continent is thoroughly understood, as it may be by some remarkable figures, quite recently furnished by that astute politician, the able Premier of Quebec, the Hon. Honore Mercier. These figures show that while in 1763, at the cession of Canada to the English, the French population numbered only 70,000, in 1890, without immigration of any moment whatever, they will number, in Quebec, 1,200,000, elsewhere in the Dominion, 300,000, and in the United States, 1,000,000; making a total French population on this continent of 2,500,000, a prodigious development, at the rate of 3,100 per cent. in 125 years, equivalent to 25 per cent. per annum! In other words, the French population in 1890, as compared with 120 years ago, will be as 31 to 1. To illustrate the significance of these startling figures, it may be stated that had the United States, with all its immigration and everything else to help it, grown with the same rapidity, it would, at this date, have a population of slightly over 100,000,000 instead of its existing 65,000,000. It is no wonder that Premier Mercier, in Canadian cartoons, is represented as dreaming of the total occupancy of the Dominion by the French race, especially when he indulges, as he does in his recent paper, in the belief that the combined French element in Canada and the United States, in fifty years, with the same ratio