

I might state as follows: We have in Manitoba 85,000 Ruthenians, 80 organized missions and 12 priests. In Saskatchewan 70,000 Ruthenians, 55 missions and 8 priests. In Alberta, 60,000 Ruthenians, 40 missions and 7 priests. In British Columbia, 30,000 Ruthenians and no priests."

Of the Catholic Ruthenians who came to Canada, about 25,000 have been lost to the Faith, and about 30,000 others are now in a state of religious unrest and indecision. The Ruthenians have a great desire to be educated, and the Protestants have met that desire by large expenditures of money. In this work the Protestant laity is as zealous as the clergy. Protestant teachers and nurses have lived and worked among them as long as ten, fifteen or even twenty years for the sole purpose of acting upon them in a missionary way. The Ruthenians have suffered a great deal of physical pain in sickness through their remoteness from medical aid in rural districts, and through their ignorance of hygiene and suitable diet. The Protestants have come to their aid through hospitals, doctors and nurses. Small wonder, therefore, that the good-will of the Ruthenians has been gained in very many cases, and even in whole districts. On the other hand, there are only about thirty Catholic priests to attend to the spiritual needs of the 200,000 Ruthenians who still remain Catholic. This makes an average of one priest to about 6,600 Catholics; but, as a matter of fact, in the Prairie Provinces the average is more than double that number. There we know of cases where one priest is attempting to look after 20,000.

The next ten or fifteen years will decide whether this large body of people will remain Catholic or become anti-Catholic. Whatever they will be eventually in religion, they will certainly exert a very great influence, for they are ambitious and talented. It is of vital interest to the Catholic Church in every part of Canada to make sacrifices now for the saving of those people to the Church. If they are lost to the Church they will be our bitterest enemies.

Another influence working against us is that of newspapers. There are eight papers published in the Ruthenian language in Canada. Of these, one is Catholic, one is neutral, and six are anti-Catholic. These are subsidized by Protestants, Socialists and Eastern Orthodox.

The Catholics of Canada need a revival of zeal in mission work. Without it the prospect of Catholicism in the Dominion