

Making Quebec Safe for Liberals

L'Action Catholique of Quebec City recently published figures showing that one-quarter of all Canadian families with children live in the Province of Quebec. What is even more significant, in the light of the proposed Federal family allowance legislation, is that more than one-half of all the large families of Canada are French-speaking. The allowance for each child has not yet been fixed, but the Government is reported to be considering a monthly figure of from \$5 to \$9 for each. This means Quebec will get the major share of the \$400,000,000 Ottawa is planning to hand out.

As the Province which pays half of the entire taxes of the Dominion, Ontario is vitally concerned.

Quebec sends 65 members to the House of Commons. Of these the majority normally are Liberals. Mr. Mackenzie King has been anxious of late about the inroads of the Bloc Populaire and other dissentients who are displeased about his war policy and conscription.

It is the hope of the Government that the distribution of more than \$100,000,000 of Federal money annually to assist the large families of Quebec will help to keep the French-Canadian vote solid for the Liberal Party.

There is another angle. By the terms of the British North America Act Quebec always has 65 seats in the House of Commons. The representation of Ontario increases or decreases according to the population. Thus, if the birth rate in Ontario declines and immigration to this Province is checked, Ontario will have fewer and fewer members in Parliament until eventually it has a smaller number than the sister Province of Quebec, whose population multiplies steadily without immigration.

This is something to be considered in connection with Government grants to encourage large families.

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