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Gérard Dion

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QUEBEC

December 1949

IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL ?

GÉRARD DION

This is a question which, rightly or wrongly, worries many investors at present. It has been put to us many times in various circumstances.

Evidently, we do not have the right to speak in the name of the Church in the province of Quebec. It is the prerogative of the episcopate.

However, as many others, inspiring ourselves from the fundamental principles of the social doctrine of the Church, we have our opinion which we believe to be well-founded and which we know also to be shared. Here it is briefly.

First of all, that enterprises in the province of Quebec be financed by people from Quebec, Ontario, the United States, South America or China, is in itself a technical problem, on which the Church has no need to pronounce itself. This is the domain of state policy and of our own financial institutions.

However, since the economic conditions of the population exercise an influence on the moral life of the people, the Church cannot remain indifferent to economic and social progress in the province.

In the past, as today, the Church encourages the efforts of all who, by honest means, wish to make our natural resources bear fruits and she rejoices to see persons employing their capital to improve the general well-being and to provide stable and justly paid work for our population.

Moreover, she considers all capital invested in the province of Quebec, from whatever source it

may come, local or foreign, has a strict right to a just revenue in proportion to the services rendered and the risks involved. By the same principles, this capital must be subordinated to the requirements of natural morality, respect of the character of the institutions in this province and become an integrant part of it.

That is why the Church cannot approve or accept as normal that capitalists, whoever they may be, invest capital in the province solely in the hope of finding here a docile and not-too-exacting man-power to whom could be imposed unjust wages and working conditions inferior to the standards in the United States and other parts of Canada.

Her principles do not allow the Church, either, to admit the exploitation of the natural wealth of the country to the prejudice of the physical and moral well-being of the population.

Finally, for the benefit of all those who desire to invest capital in the province of Quebec, we believe we should like to point out a unique advantage.

Because of the great number of her faithful and institutions inspired by her, the Catholic Church exercises a profound influence in the province of Quebec. Now, wherever it is located, the Catholic Church is, in the eyes of all, the greatest moral force able to fight effectively against communist and socialist doctrines. We can therefore conclude that those who wish to invest capital in the province of Quebec are assured of meeting more security and protection than in any other place in the world.