

The effects of the United States demand for horses and cattle, during the war, have, no doubt, altered considerably the proportions of the above numbers. In Ontario, a sort of annual census, taken by the assessors, has been established. This shews for 1867—and we compare the figures with those of the general census of 1861:—

Year.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.	Dogs.
1867	351,398	944,852	1,764,917	651,388	103,882
1861	377,681	1,015,328	1,170,225	776,001

This municipal census being the first, under a new law, cannot be checked, as future ones can be, by comparison. It is probably 10 per cent below the truth—the assessors' errors being invariably of omission. If this be so, it would show no great increase in horses, cattle, and swine, but a very great increase in sheep; indeed this increase is established by the figures as given. And this is what is believed to have been the case.

It is neither the intention nor the duty of the writer to engage in controversy, but he may express his hope that the opinion expressed by some newspapers that this municipal census is hardly worth continuing, may not be that of the authorities. He regards it as of the highest value, and hopes that the municipal officers, to whom the credit for its accuracy, or the blame for its inaccuracy, must belong, will continue to co-operate with the local and general governments in perfecting it, year by year—also that a similar system may be introduced in the other Provinces. An annual census of the whole Dominion would be highly useful—not as a mere item of news, but to the statesmen who control the government—for determining what increase of debt or annual burdens can be borne by the people; what public works they would be justified in carrying out. Hitherto we have only had annual accounts of trade—of the increase or decrease of imports and exports. It is time we began to know the annual increase or decrease of the great agricultural industries—and it will soon be time, too, to know something of the annual flux or reflux of manufacturing prosperity. If Public Opinion would only support, and in due time reward, quiet and laborious public servants engaged in such work, it would be far better than to be so continually finding fault with, and of course dispiriting, the Civil Service at large.

The wealth of the Dominion is estimated, in some detail, at page 18 of the *Year Book* of 1867. We roughly state it here at \$1,509,000.—The debt of the Dominion being (1st July, 1868,) \$84,576,039, or, including Newfoundland, say \$88,000,000; it follows that the public debt is about \$27 per head, and about 5½ per cent of the total value of property therein.

The debts of the Provinces being now included in the debts of the Dominion, need not be added, when considering the other, or local burdens on the people. The municipal debts, however, should be, and they are—

Ontario, (not including municipal loan fund debts,)	\$11,000,000
Quebec, (principally debts of the cities,)	10,000,000
New Brunswick—a rough estimate—very little municipal organization in this Province, ..	500,000
Nova Scotia—debt of Halifax the only item of importance,	900,000
	\$22,400,000

It does not appear that either the public or municipal debts have increased, of late years, at a more rapid rate than the population; but the Dominion not being a rich country, though one of great resources, we should do well to diminish rather than increase them per head.

The area is—Ontario, 121,260 square miles; Quebec, 210,020; New Brunswick, 27,105; Nova Scotia, 18,660; Newfoundland, 40,200; the North-West, say 2,750,000; total, 2,827,045. Adding for British Columbia, 220,000, and Prince Edward Island, 2,100—we have, for British North America, 3,049,146 square miles. The density of population may be easily calculated from these data. For the figures, compared with those of European countries, the United States, &c., see the *Year Book* of 1869, pages 6 and 7.

We give, in conclusion, the following table, relating to the principal Independent Nations and British and Foreign Colonial Possessions, that the position of Canada among them may be properly appreciated.

Nations.	Population.	Area sq. miles.	Possessions.	Population.	Area sq. miles.
China	367,632,907	1,297,999	British India	135,634,244	933,722
Russia	73,892,373	7,612,874	British North America	4,525,205	3,049,146
France	38,067,094	204,480	Ceylon	2,049,881	24,700
Turkey	35,359,000	1,812,048	Australian Colonies	1,599,580	258,207
Austria	34,670,577	227,234	West Indies	1,097,627	88,683
United States (1860)	31,445,089	1,486,917	Mauritius	322,517	708
Britain and Ireland	29,321,288	119,924	Cape of Good Hope	267,096	104,931
North Germany	27,978,651	166,624	Natal	158,580	14,397
Italy	21,703,710	98,784	Other British Poss'ns.	816,998	28,945
Spain	16,301,850	182,758			
South Germany	8,606,948	45,951	Total British Poss'ns.	146,471,708	6,827,302
Mexico	7,995,426	1,030,442	Philippine Isl'ds (Spain)	2,679,500	52,647
Brazil	7,677,800	3,100,104	Cuba	1,369,238	48,489
Sweden and Norway	5,814,386	291,903	Porto Rico	615,574	3,969
Belgium	4,984,451	11,313	Java (Netherlands)	13,019,108	51,336
Persia	4,400,000	64,800	Oth'r Dutch Pos'ns, viz:		
Portugal	3,987,867	36,510	East Indian Colonies	4,960,892	468,843
Netherlands	3,756,516	12,791	West Indian	85,792	54,187
Switzerland	2,534,242	15,233	African	110,118	10,625
Denmark	1,608,095	14,553	Algeria (France)	2,999,124	150,580
Greece	1,332,508	19,941			