

The Government did maintain an Agency at Antwerp, but Mr. E. Simays, the Agent, was withdrawn during the recent disturbance of peace in Europe. An Agency has also been maintained at Miramichi, N.B., but it is at present vacant.

ONTARIO.

The most populous Province in the Dominion is Ontario. By the census of 1861, she had a population of 1,396,091; the census for 1871 has just been taken, but the result, as we write these lines, is not yet made known. (The actual census returns may be published before this edition of the *Year Book* goes finally through the press.)

Taking the figures of the Government pamphlet, there are in Ontario 77,606,400 acres. Of these 21,879,048 have been granted and sold. The total number of acres surveyed is 25,997,480. It thus appears that there are about three and half million acres of surveyed Government lands not yet taken up; and upwards of fifty millions of acres more yet to be surveyed. The greater part of these lands are situate between the Ottawa River and the Georgian Bay; and at the South by the more Northerly part of what have been called the front townships.

The settlements in Ontario have been hitherto made in front of a low range of mountains or hills called the Laurentian range, which had been thought to bound the lands fit for settlement, but it has been discovered that behind this range there is another tract fit for settlement, and said to be as rich as that in front. This tract is timbered with a heavy growth of mixed white pine and hardwood, and a great part of the country is as level as the St. Lawrence valley. These lands are approached by the Northern Railway and Lake Simcoe on the one hand, and the Upper Ottawa on the other. They have the basin of Lake Nipissing and the watershed of the Ottawa for drainage. Their waters are in part navigable, and the rest can be made so. Settlement has already commenced to enter rapidly into the Muskoka district.

Considerable tracts of this new district are set aside for free grants to settlers. There is also a homestead exemption law for the protection of the settler.

The lands which are offered for sale by the Government are sold at a very low price, varying from twenty cents to \$1 per acre. But the settler is required to build a habitable house and put twenty acres of a two hundred acre lot under a crop before a patent issues.

The Government of Ontario, as announced, have been making an experiment of clearing a portion of wild lands and building a log house on them, in order to enable new settlers to commence operations in farming, immediately; the Government exacting the cost price of the improvements.

This experiment has been made in the Township of Ryerson. On a lot of 200 acres, from three to five acres are cleared, and a log house erected, at a cost not exceeding \$200 (about £40 stg.) The land is given free to a head of a family, the cost of this improvement remaining a first charge.

We understand that the experiment has so far answered very well.

Ontario is very rich in several kinds of minerals. Petroleum is found in large quantities and profitably worked. Large quantities are exported and the wells are believed to be inexhaustible.

Salt wells of great richness have been worked with profit at Goderich.

Copper and silver are found in large quantities on the shores of Lake Superior.

There are very large deposits of phosphate of lime behind Brockville and at other places. Large quantities of iron pyrites are found near these deposits. The conditions are therefore very favourable for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and for converting the phosphate of lime into superphosphate for manure. A manufactory by a joint stock company has already commenced at Brockville. This valuable product will either pay for export, or may be used for enriching the lands of Canada.

Lead, plumbago, arsenic and antimony, manganese, gypsum, fine marble, &c., &c., and large quantities of various building stones are found in this province.

Large peat bogs exist, and some of them have been worked.

Gold has been found and worked, but not to any great extent, and there are other minerals in the province.

But the great wealth of Ontario is the richness of its soil and the favourable nature of its climate for agricultural operations. These conditions have caused a very rapid increase both in wealth and population, and Ontario is one of the most favoured countries under the sun.

It has good roads, very extensive water communication, and its railway system is becoming a network.

Its admirable School system affords the children of the poorest, means of good education, and thus gives them opportunities to run the race of life with the children of the wealthiest; which in point of fact they do with marked success.

Its Municipal system is among the most perfect in the world. All religions are free without state preference. Its political institutions are free, while they afford guarantees for stability. In a word this province is in a very high degree prosperous and happy; and it can profitably absorb a very large increase of population.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The population of the Province of Quebec, at the census of 1861, was 1,111,566.

The Province of Quebec comprises a territory of 210,000 square miles, in round numbers, or 129,000,000 of acres, of which 19,629,884 have been taken up. 10,678,931 of these were conceded in Seigniories, but the Seigniorial Tenure is now abolished. The lands are held in fee. There remain over 102,969,757 acres of land yet to be surveyed. About 5,720,939 acres are surveyed and offered in part for sale by the Government and part in free grants. The following detailed statement has been prepared by the Crown Lands Department of the Quebec Government dated March last, showing the names of the agencies, and other particulars stated in the headings to the columns:—