

migration or emigration (to Detroit or other western French settlements), the one probably neutralizing the other; and therefore, this number, 2.55 per cent per annum, may be regarded as the natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) of this very prolific community—chiefly agricultural—fairly housed, clothed and fed, and comparatively free from gross vices of any kind. This high ratio of increase, being irrespective of immigration, is probably without a parallel in modern times; and being based on authentic records, it furnishes perhaps the most reliable datum in the history of any country, for solving a very interesting problem, viz.: to determine the natural increase of an isolated community, under favorable circumstances, and for a long number of consecutive years.

The immigrants to this country from the British Isles are chiefly of the vigorous, working classes; and these, when well kept, are found, in all countries, to be the most prolific portion of the community. Yet those best acquainted with them in Canada will probably admit, that, in this respect, they do not fully equal the French Canadians. In this country, however, their wants are generally well supplied; and it is, therefore, quite safe to place their natural increase at 2 per cent. per annum; and fully as safe, to regard the annual ratio of increase of our native and fixed population, who have all the comforts of life in abundance, at 1.50 per cent. per annum, when that of England and Wales is 1.36 per cent.

And now assuming these ratios for both classes of our people, and also that the immigration reports since 1851 are approximately correct, let us try to determine the population which Ontario should have, first in 1861, and then in 1871. The census of 1852 (for it was taken in that year) gave us 952,004 persons. These, estimated at 1.5 per cent per annum, would amount to 1,088,511, in nine years; and the 207,900 immigrants of these nine years, reckoned at 2 per cent and according to the respective number of years after their arrival in the province, would amount to 228,617, making a total of 1,317,000 persons in 1861. The census of that year however was 1,396,091, which exceeds the number thus found by 79,000.

There are good reasons for believing that the census of 1861 was very inaccurately taken, and was considerably in excess of the truth. A great part of our large lumbering population, is now known to have been taken both in the forests and also at their proper homes. The Enumerators were paid a certain sum for every name or every 100 names in their books, which tended directly to exaggeration; and there were various other sources of error, all which lead to the belief, that the numbers given for 1861 were very much in excess of the actual facts, fully to the extent of 79,000, if not more. This estimate is corroborated by the results of the municipal census taken in Montreal last winter, and in other places, to prove that of the Dominion too small. The disappointing results of that trial compelled some of the leading journals of that city to admit, that the census of 1861 must have been too great. This was in another province, it is true, but that only proves that the excess was not confined to one portion of Canada.

Assuming now this excess of 79,000 to have been a fact, the census of Ontario should have been 1,317,000 instead of 1,396,000, as given for that year; and after making this

reduction, the decennial increase, compared with 888,840, the population of 1851 (952,004 was the census for 1852) was 48.18 per cent., while that for the corresponding decennial in the United States was only 35.52, although the immigration during these ten years was 1,337,276 in excess of that of any preceding decennial! The estimated excess for Ontario, as given above, is, therefore, probably too small, and a similar reduction should be made in the census of 1852 to reach the actual truth.

Let us next compute both this corrected number for 1861 and the 189,000 immigrants who are reported to have come to Canada since the latter date, in the same manner and at the same ratios as for the preceding decade, and we shall find as the sum of both classes, 1,736,667. The late census gives for Ontario, 1,620,851. This shows a deficiency of nearly 116,000. Let us enquire whether this deficiency can be fairly accounted for.

Those who lived in Ontario between 1850 and 1860 will remember, that all our railways were built during that time; money was abundant, and labour of all kinds in great demand; and, in consequence, the immigrants who came remained in the country. But between 1860 and 1870, the circumstances were simply reversed; no public works were constructed; there was much reaction from speculation during the prosperous period of our railways and the Crimean war; there was little demand for mechanics or other workers; the farmers, and indeed all classes, though well to do, keenly felt these influences; and our political affairs, for some years preceding Confederation, were not at all in a satisfactory or encouraging state.

Under these adverse circumstances, it is not reasonable to suppose that a very large proportion of the 189,000 immigrants who were reported to have come to Canada during these ten years, became permanent settlers in Ontario. (Comparatively few from the British Isles at that time remained in the Province of Quebec.) They soon crossed over to the U. S. in large numbers, where, at that period, far better prospects presented themselves to meet their necessities. And this emigration of our immigrants would account for a great part of the estimated deficiency of 116,000.

But there was a much greater drain upon our population than this; during the American war, very many of our people went to that country; (the American authorities say that more than 30,000, from all the Provinces, entered their armies) and after its termination, we all remember that there was an extensive flow of emigration from Ontario to the Western States, in consequence chiefly of political unsettlement at home, and of better prospects, at that time, in the neighbouring Republic.

The first volume of the United States census for 1870, lately published, shows that large numbers emigrated from Canada, during the period now under consideration, and thus fully sustains the position assumed in this paper as to the numbers that must have left us between 1860 and 1870. The number is more than 116,000. Could the circumstances which induced the depressing events of these years have been prevented, Ontario would have had a population of not less than 1,787,000, when her last census was taken. This number would give her a decimal ratio of upwards of 24 per cent., even on the over-