

## Immigration to Canada.

The question of immigration to Canada has attracted much attention within the last two years and much larger sums have been voted by the Parliament at Ottawa to promote it than ever before. The total combined expenditure of the Dominion and the Provinces for immigration purposes during the calendar year 1872 was \$261,968.03; and the year 1873 the vote of the Dominion Parliament for this service was nearly three hundred thousand dollars.

Parliament had manifested some indifference on the subject of immigration up to the year 1871, and before that time, comparatively small sums of money were voted to promote it. But the rapid progress of the country caused labour wants to be felt and an idea became prevalent that every individual immigrant was of considerable money value to the country,—\$1,000 was the popular idea of this value. Hence the change of public sentiment on this question.

The total number of immigrants to the Dominion during 1872,—those who came to stay and those who went through as passengers was 89,186, against 65,722 the previous year.

The numbers of immigrants who passed through the Dominion and proceeded to the United States, during the last seven years, as reported by the Dominion Government Agents, were as follow:—

1866.....	41,704
1867.....	47,212
1868.....	58,683
1869.....	57,202
1870.....	44,313
1871.....	37,949
1872.....	52,608

The numbers of those reported by the Dominion Agents at the several ports to have settled in Canada during the same period of seven years, were as follow:—

1866.....	10,091
1867.....	14,666
1868.....	12,765
1869.....	18,630
1870.....	24,706
1871.....	27,773
1872.....	36,578

It is proper to remark that the numbers of immigrants contained in the first of the two preceding statements were not in any proper sense of the term immigrants to Canada. They were simply passengers through Canada for the United States, and the greater part of them were provided with through tickets before sailing. Out of the total of 89,186 who arrived, only 34,743 came by way of the St. Lawrence; the remainder came by the Suspension Bridge and other ports.

The second of the statements shows remarkable increase in the number of immigrants who announced their intention to settle in Canada. As remarked by the Minister of Agriculture in his last Report, "the apparent increase in 1872 over 1871 was 8,805, or 35.34 per cent. If we make the comparison with the first of the seven years of the statement, namely, 1866, the increase is still more marked, the figures being 262,48 per cent. An increase approaching the total number in 1866."

While this large increase in the number of settlers in Canada is a gratifying feature

of the figures on the one hand, the fact of so large a number seeking to enter the Western States is a remarkable feature on the other. It is proof of an important commercial advantage which Canada possesses arising out of a marked geographical feature of the continent of North America. We have before shown, but it cannot be too often repeated, that the distance from Liverpool to New York is 3,095 miles; that from Liverpool to Quebec, by the route taken by the ocean steamers, is 2,649. The St. Lawrence route is thus 446 miles shorter, and possesses the advantage of smooth water—of inland navigation for about one-third of the whole distance. It may be added that the scenery of the Lower St. Lawrence is amongst the finest in the world,—a fact which possesses many charms for those who travel.

The system of giving assisted passages by means of Passenger Warrants had doubtless important influence in increasing the number of settlers to Canada in 1872. Under these warrants approved immigrants could obtain passages in 1872 for £4 5s. stg. per steamship instead of £6 6s. the Conference rate. And in 1873 for £4 15s. In 1873, moreover, special warrants were granted by the Govt. of Canada, under which the families of agricultural labourers, and domestic female servants, could obtain passages per steamship for £2 5s. stg. per adult. The usual reductions were made for children in both these classes of warrants.

Mr. Arch, the President of the Labourers' Union, England, accompanied by Mr. Clayden, member of the Consultative Committee of the Society, visited Canada in the fall of 1873; they both expressed themselves very greatly pleased with its magnificent resources; and it is thought that their favorable report will promote the immigration of a considerable number of the class of English agricultural labourers; especially as there is an understanding that Passenger Warrants will be made available to promote the movement.

The total number of immigrants assisted by Benevolent Societies and individuals in Great Britain in 1872 was 2,435, as is shewn in the report of Mr. Stafford, Dominion Immigration Agent at Quebec. In 1871, the number was 4,590, showing a decrease last year in immigrants of this class of 2,163. The decrease is, of course, owing to the unwillingness of the public to subscribe money for the purpose of emigration in the face of revival of prosperity and absence of distress. In fact there has been signs of general unwillingness to promote any emigration from the United Kingdom. But as it appears from other returns published by the Registrar General that the increase of population is very nearly a quarter of a million a year over both the deaths and the outflow from emigration, it may be concluded that emigration is necessary to prevent the overstocking of the labour market. It is certainly also building up a great and prosperous nation in Canada, which in its turn promotes prosperity in Great Britain by becoming a customer.

The capitation tax ceased in July, 1872, the sum of \$13,798 having been collected up to that period. This tax, which was only \$1 per head, was a charge upon the immigrant proper, it being levied on the ship, and the immigrant rate being fixed by a combination of steamship companies at £6 6s. That is owing to this combination