

## CHAPTER VIII.

## IMMIGRATION.

409. According to the returns published by the Department of Agriculture, there was a considerable falling off in the numbers of immigrants to this country during the past year, 1885. The figures in this chapter refer to the calendar and not the fiscal year.

410. There can be no doubt that the unhappy disturbances in the North-West had a very seriously deterrent effect on immigration, not only to the North-West itself, but also to the whole of Canada, more especially as the actual facts were largely and alarmingly exaggerated in centres of emigration. The depression prevailing both on this continent and in Europe had also a considerable influence in retarding immigration. The total number of immigrant arrivals, both passengers and settlers, in this country during 1885, was 105,096, as compared with 166,596 in 1884, being a decrease of 61,500. Of the total number 79,169 were immigrant settlers, being a decrease of 24,655 as compared with 1884; and 25,927 were passengers through Canada to the United States, a decrease of 36,845 from the numbers in the preceding year.

411. The following are the numbers, according to the reports of agents, of immigrants who arrived in Canada with the intention of settling, during the last seven years. Those reported with settlers goods by the Custom houses are included in these figures.

Year.	No. of immigrants.
1879.....	40,492
1880.....	38,505
1881.....	47,991
1882.. ..	112,458
1883.....	133,624
1884.....	103,824
1885.....	79,169

412. Though there has been a decrease for the last two years, yet the numbers reported in the year under review, are very considerably higher than in any year previous to 1882. From 1873 to 1881 inclusive, the average annual number was 36,257, while during the last four years the average has been 107,268.

413. The number of those who availed themselves of the cheapened passage arrangement in 1885 was 7,819, including men, women and children. Of children there were 1,125, thus leaving only 6,694 adults, which would probably be nearly equally divided between the sexes. They consisted entirely of female domestic servants, agricultural labourers, and families of agricultural labourers, these passages not being available for any other class. In these cheapened or so called assisted