

of a tainted and dying population. From that time emigration to Canada fell off. Ten years before that date, a larger number of emigrants, who left the United Kingdom, had come here than had gone to the United States. The tide, once its direction was turned, flowed with ever accelerating force.

Something of the antipathy to immigration, which was officially declared in 1847, continued to work in the breasts of the French Canadians, as long as the old union lasted. So intensely national are the people of France, that the transfer of Canada to England was the signal for the cessation of emigration to a colony on which they had once looked with so much pride. The new emigration to Canada went west. Political questions came to be associated with the relative numerical strength of population in the new-English and the old French part of the Province. The faster Upper Canada filled up, the more was imperilled that sectional equality and representation on which the union of 1840 was based. It was natural that Lower Canada should not look favourably on an influx of population which filled the majority with an undefined fear for the future of their institutions.

And while Lower Canada received but very small accretions of population from beyond her borders, she lost much of native growth. Neither political nor religious motives were strong enough to retain the young men in the land of their nativity. The subdivisions of paternal estates had, in many cases, been carried so far that the fractional portions ceased to be capable of sustaining a family; and instead of the majority of the brothers condemning themselves to celibacy, and selecting one continuation of the family, as is done in Switzerland, under like circumstances, they beat all America in fecundity, and accepted expatriation as the consequence of a local pressure of population. The church remonstrated at a removal that probably involved a change of faith or rather an indifference to all religion. The Minister of Agriculture was at his wit's end; and committees of Parliament reported successive schemes to stop the outflow of population; but all to no purpose.

How could it have been otherwise? The emigrants were only following a natural law. Move they must, somewhere, or starve. They might have gone into the woods nearer home; but were we to measure distance by time and with the facilities of railroads, it was about as easy to go to the Western States, where the soil was rich, the climate milder, and the prairie lands more easy to subdue. Now that we have a North-West of our own, equal in attractions to the Western States, we may hope to turn the tide.

It was folly to expect it before. The French Canadians were only doing what the people of Massachusetts were doing; and the fact that in the former case the emigrants left his country did not weigh with them, for they shared the opinion of Thackeray, that that is their country which offered the best market for their labor. So general is the law that the older settlements will send forth swarms of laborers to the new, that, twenty years ago, the migration of population from the New England States to the West far exceeded the European immigration. Massachusetts has since learnt a new human physiology at the feet of Senator Owen, and she now produces no waste population to pour into the West! For sheer want of hands, many a valley among her granite hills, which the industry of preceding generations had made fruitful, is becoming desert. We may congratulate ourselves that there has been no such retrogression in Lower Canada. There the activity of the principle of fecundity has prevented a scarcity of hands to till the soil, while the stream of emigration continues.

This habit of emigration, hitherto a source of national debility, may now be made one of national strength. All that is required is to give a new direction to the stream. There exists the incentive which a pre-existing colony of mixed French blood can furnish. The wealth of a nation depends upon its surplus produce, not on the gross; and if every man who moves from the Province of Quebec to the North-West can produce twice as much in his new as he produced in his old home, the effect will be the same as if an additional hand had come to the old Province. The notion must be got rid of that the wealth of a country depends on the number of its inhabitants: it is in proportion to the net product of the labor of the population, be the numbers what they may. A hundred thousand people going to Lower Canada would probably not add as much to the wealth of the Dominion as half that number going to Manitoba. An universal law in the settling of new countries is that, when they become accessible, the best lands are the first to be occupied; and it is for the advantage of the country, and, in a more restricted sense, of mankind in general, that it should be so.

The general and local governments possess concurrent authority in the matter of immigration. If Quebec can induce some of the surplus population of old France to go there, let her; that would be her appropriate place of action. Each of the other provinces will act for itself. The appropriate work of the Dominion is to act for the whole; to direct immigration to the territories of the North-

West. An effort should also be made to direct the outgoing French Canadian population to that region. In this way we may convert into a means of national wealth what has hitherto been regarded as a cause of regret, as it has certainly been a loss of the main element of national wealth.

#### TRADE REVIEW.

Notwithstanding the warlike preparations that have been going on for some time back, and the forwarding of troops and stores to our far west—for we are to have a "Far-West" now—to say nothing of Fenian uneasiness, trade in every department has exhibited a fair amount of activity this spring. The volume of exports has been large from this port, since the opening of navigation, principally to Montreal for shipment to Britain. Spring wheat and peas formed the bulk of the articles, and as they have moved off at prices considerably in excess of the very low rates current in the winter, there is no doubt that transactions have been profitable. Montreal reports indicate a remarkable activity in the export trade, and a very large increase over the transactions of last year. The quantity of wheat received up to 18th May, last year, was 231,000 bushels. This year the quantity was 897,000 bushels.

Nothing is more remarkable than the facilities afforded to the export trade by the lines of steamships now trading between Montreal and Europe, of which from the 11th to the 19th one sailed nearly every day. The shipments from Montreal for the same period were as follows:

Wheat.....	190,136 bushels.
Peas.....	121,854 "
Flour.....	21,764 barrels.

besides large quantities of cheese, butter, potash, bacon, leather and tobacco. Of the whole quantity, more than one half was taken by ocean steamships. If the export trade continues as actively as it has begun, the present season will probably far excel all others in the quantity taken by the St. Lawrence route.

Sawed lumber is moving off as rapidly as schooners can be found to carry it, and the prospects of the trade are decidedly better than it was supposed they would be. The immense stocks wintered over will find their way to market gradually, and as the trade is fairly brisk in the leading centers in the States, the apprehension of a glut which troubled the minds of persons in the trade are being gradually dissipated. The capacity of the Northern Railway is being severely taxed to bring down the constantly increasing quantities of this valuable article of export, and there can be no doubt that the trade of the present year will exhibit a considerable increase over the heavy