

number of immigrant passengers who passed through the country during the corresponding years :—

1866.....41,704	1867.....47,212
1868.....58,683	1869.....57,202
1870.....44,313	1871.....37,949
1872.....52,608	1873.....49,059
1874.....40,649	

These figures do not by any means show the same tendency to increase as those of the preceding statement. The greater part of these immigrant passengers enter at the Suspension Bridge, and proceed to the Western States by rail.

The number of immigrants who entered at the port of Quebec in 1874 was 23,894. In 1873, the number was 36,901. In 1872, 34,743. In 1871, 37,020, and in 1870, 44,475. There has been a steady decline in the numbers by the St. Lawrence since 1869, the arrivals last year being less than any year since 1865. At the Maritime Province ports very few enter, the numbers being only 2,114. The remainder, to make up the totals we have stated, enter at the Inland ports.

A notable feature in the statistics of the year is the comparatively large number of immigrants from the United States, recorded at the Custom House along the frontier in connection with entries of Settler's Goods. For the two last years, there were as follows :—

1873 .....	8,971
1874 .....	14,110

The value of Settler's Goods entered by these immigrants is very considerable.

The following statement shows the Emigration movement from the United Kingdom for the last two years which is in itself interesting as a piece of news, and also in its bearing on the special subject of immigration to Canada :—

	1873.	1874.
To United States.....	233,073	148,161
" N. Am. Colonies..	37,208	25,450
" Australian do ..	26,428	53,958
" All other places..	13,903	13,445

Total emigration from G.

Britain .....	310,612	241,014
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It thus appears that while the decline of immigration to the American Continent is very great, there is a large increase to the Australian Colonies; but that has been obtained by them at the cost of the expenditure of a large sum of money. The young Colony of New Zealand spent three millions of dollars in prepaying the passages of emigrants, apart from its expensive agency and system of propagandism.

The figures in the above statement are from the Imperial official returns; and they do not show the entries of immigrants at the inland ports of the Dominion. A very considerable portion of the numbers credited to the U.S., had Canada for their

destination. For instance all those immigrants entering at Portland for Canada, are credited in the Imperial returns to the United States. But Portland is really a winter seaport of the Dominion.

We notice by this report that the number of Mennonites who have so far settled in the Dominion is 1,532, of whom 1,349 have gone to Manitoba. The remainder intend to go in the spring, and more are promised during the coming season.

The total expenditure for immigration purposes by the Dominion Government in 1874 was \$281,413.11. These figures include the total cost of the permanent agencies in the Dominion and the quarantine establishments which would be required to be kept up, whether the Dominion made exertions to promote immigration or not. The total amount of expenditure for immigration proper, less the expenses of quarantine, was \$251,120.75, against \$234,000.93 the year before. The increased expenditure in 1874 was mainly due to that incurred for the immigration of the Mennonites, the amount paid for that service having been \$22,485.86. Against this, however, there was a refund of \$5,158. On this point we may notice that we see in the Estimates an item of \$100,000 to be loaned to the Mennonites of Ontario, who enter into bond with the Government to repay this amount in a series of years. It is intended to be used in bringing out their more indigent brethren from South Russia to Canada. Those who came during the summer, were well off, and brought very considerable sums in specie with them, with which they made trade brisk at Winnipeg for a while.

We may state generally that Ontario received the bulk of all the immigrants who came to Canada in 1874, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces obtaining very few. The new Province of Manitoba received 3,635 settlers, principally from Ontario and the United States.

Almost the whole of the immigrants came by steamships, only 512 came by sailing vessels. The health of the immigrants last season was unusually good.

#### THE ACT RESPECTING INSOLVENCY.

The amendments which the Government have proposed are, it appears, the result of suggestions from a variety of sources. Opinions differ materially as to the value of some of these, while, as to others, there is an accord which proves that the old Act has been found generally to be defective in its working. The distinction between a trader and a non-trader has been preserved, and it is proposed now to embrace in the Act an

explanation of the term trader. The list of "trades, callings or employments" which is given is copied from the English Act, and will be found convenient as a statutory definition of a term otherwise susceptible of a variety of interpretations. Having ascertained who is entitled to take advantage of the Act, the next thing to be considered is (1) the speediest and cheapest means of realizing and distributing the Insolvent's estate, and (2) the prevention and punishment of fraud. In order to effect the former a great deal depends upon the Assignee. If he be not a fit person to discharge the duties of his position, of course trouble, delay, and expense will ensue; and we are to a certain extent disposed to favour any proposition that would be likely to ensure the appointment of Assignees, active, capable and honest. While the Government proposition to retain the right of appointment of Official Assignees in their own hands is open to most serious objections, there is something to be said in its favour, and the experience of every creditor who has had to do with insolvent estates will suggest reasons why. But it is open to objections of another and perhaps more weighty character, which render the withdrawal of the Government proposition judicious. It being settled that the right to appoint Assignees shall continue to be vested in the Boards of Trade, the question arises what powers should be committed to Assignees, and what should be reserved for higher authority. The proposed Act appears to us to err materially in requiring such constant attendance upon a Judge for merely formal matters, such long delays as in clause 49 and 50, and such systematic advertising in the Official Gazette. We do not see the advantage to be gained from thrusting the details of business and administration before the Judge. It would be quite sufficient to submit questions of law to him. Attendance before him necessitates the employment of counsel and occasions both expense and delay. Hence it would be well to have such as unfrequent as possible. If the Assignee be fitted for his office he, under the control of the creditors, could be safely left to pronounce upon questions of a purely business nature. In this connection it might be observed that an Assignee should be a competent accountant, and in no case interested in the estate of a creditor.

Provisions for the prevention of fraud cannot be too strict. In considering their object, it becomes manifest that no assignment should be allowed to be made to an Assignee residing out of the Province, "in which the insolvency occurs." Debts to relatives are a fruitful source of fraud, and now in the absence of fraud occasion great