

extent still available of the lands comprised in the State domain. Of this available quantity, 7,324,530 acres are surveyed, divided into farm lots and open to settlement.

Among the electoral colleges, there are some exceedingly extensive. Thus, for example, the county of Chicoutimi and Saguenay alone embraces a territory exceeding by 2,576 square miles the collective areas of Holland, Belgium, Portugal and Scotland, which together form an area of 90,776 square miles. Again, the territory included within the county of Pontiac almost equals the superficies of Belgium and Holland together.

V

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDED PROPERTY

According to the data supplied by the census of 1881, of the 120,018,964 acres of land contained in the province of Quebec, 12,625,877 acres were at that time occupied by 123,932 proprietors, 12,344 tenant farmers, and 1,587 employees, and of the 12,625,877 acres thus occupied, 6,410,264 had been improved, — which probably means cleared — 4,147,984 acres were under crops, 2,207,422 acres were in pasture and 856 acres in gardens and orchards.

A comparison of these figures with those of the census of 1871 shows the following differences :

	1881	1871	Differences
Number of acres occupied.....	12,625,877	11,025,786	1,600,091
“ “ improved.....	6,410,264	5,703,944	706,320
“ “ under crops.....	4,147,984	3,714,304	433,680
“ “ in pasture.....	2,207,422	1,943,182	264,240
“ “ in gardens and orchards.....	856	46,458	45,602
“ proprietors.....	123,932	109,059	24,873
“ tenant farmers.....	12,344	7,895	4,449
“ employees.....	1,587	1,132	455

The average, per head, of the extent of land owned is 88.8 and that of the lands unoccupied 79.5 acres. The number of persons per square mile of territory is 7.2.

VI

SUPERFICIAL CONFIGURATION.

The province of Quebec is, so to say, enclosed between two mountain chains: the Laurentides to the north and the Alleghanies to the south. These chains increase their distance from each other as they proceed from east to west. By their position, as well as by their geological formation, they constitute two distinct systems, although both are composed of sedimentary deposits in the metamorphic state. The mountains of the north-eastern chain are of a more crystalline nature and more ancient formation than those of the southern