

and in the Niagara Peninsula. They are known to history as the United Empire Loyalists, and were of varied descent, numbering among them many sons of England, Scotland and Ireland, besides persons of German, Dutch and Huguenot origin. Some were farmers, but the greater number consisted of discharged officers and men who had served Great Britain in the late war, and were unaccustomed to pioneer life. They began the arduous tasks of felling the trees, clearing the land, (for Ontario was an unbroken forest) the building of rude houses and barns, and the planting of cleared ground among the stumps of the forest trees with wheat, oats, and potatoes for the sustenance of themselves and their families. In 1812 the population had grown from practically nothing to 30,000, all of whom, with the exception of a few hundred, were engaged in tilling the land. At this time the principal articles exported from the farms were oak and pine timber, and potash distilled from wood ashes. Gradually a larger amount of land was brought under cultivation, and more substantial dwellings and farm buildings of sawn lumber took the place of the first crude log structures. In 1830 there were five towns in the Province of over 1,000 inhabitants each, viz: Brockville, 1,130; Hamilton, 2,013; London, 2,416; Toronto, 2,860; and Kingston, 3,587. The Province could also boast of one daily paper and one bank. In 1837, the population had increased to 397,500, by far the greater portion still living on the farm.

About that time an extensive immigration set in from England, Scotland and Ireland. The great famine of 1846 sent Irish immigrants to America by tens of thousands. These new comers, who were a very fine class of settlers, located as a rule in groups or blocks, which formed the nuclei of some of the richest townships of Ontario. In this manner arose the Highland settlement of Glengarry, the settlement of English gentlemen and retired military officers near Cobourg, the Irish settlement near Peterboro', the military settlement near Perth, the Talbot settlement in Elgin, the Canada Company's settlement in the Huron Tract, the block of Paisley weavers in Wellington, the Germans in Waterloo, Huron and Renfrew, and the French Canadians in Essex, Prescott and Russell.

The year 1853 saw the beginning of the railway era, the first line in operation being that from Toronto north to the town of Bradford. This was followed three years later by the establishment of railway connection between Montreal and Toronto by the Grand Trunk Railway, after which the work of improving communication and transportation facilities was pushed forward with vigor.

The lumbering industry now assumed very large proportions, and the lumbering and railway operations combined with the influx of immigrants and capital, greatly stimulated all branches of trade.