

CENSUS RETURNS DISAPPOINTING.

There is no denying the fact that the census returns for the past decade have proved disappointing to our people; but this disappointment is in a large measure, due to expectations that were founded upon mere conjecture. Our people were certainly emigrating from the country in large numbers during the first half of this decennial period. Our commerce was very nearly stationary, and this, it is reasonable to assume, was due to the fact that a large percentage of our population was drawn away from their place of nativity to the neighboring republic. For the previous twelve years there was but little variation in the volume of our exports and imports. The census shows that the population of Canada was in April last 5,338,883, and the increase, including both the natural increase of population and its increase by immigration is but 505,644. Now the natural increase of our population ought to have made the population of Canada, without any addition from abroad, 5,438,000; and if we count on an immigration of 25,000 a year, there would have added during the decade 250,000 more; so that our census, according to a very moderate calculation, might be expected to have shown a population in Canada of 5,688,000. Well we are disappointed. We have 350,000 short of this number, and it is our duty to carefully consider the facts out of which this disappointment has arisen. Since 1896 Canada has enjoyed an unusual degree of prosperity. Since then but few have left the country. Our people readily go to the United States because their language and their institutions are similar to our own. But there have been no causes operating to induce our people to go abroad. We have lost indeed but very few of our population. This, however, was not the case during the five years between the summers of 1891 and 1896, when there must have gone from the country a number equal to all we received from abroad, and, I think, not less than 50,000 a year beside. This was a tremendous drain to overcome. In fact, it was too great to be at once obliterated, and it is due to the prosperity which has attended the country during the past five years that so great an exodus has left so few traces of evil behind it.

ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

The natural increase in England, after the emigration is deducted, is shown to be 12 per cent. for the decade. In Germany it is 14 per cent. Both the percentage of England