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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Elsewhere we give some advice on the subject of making existence endurable in the hot weather, but now that we have reached September there will not be any necessity for anxiety. We sometimes have some very hot weather during this month, but it seldom lasts long, and the nights are decidedly cool. Our usually delightful autumns are a bountiful compensation for any discomfort "balmy spring" imposes on us.

Russia still continues to arm—some new warlike equipment being almost daily announced. We may truly look forward to these martial preparations ending, as the saying is, in smoke, but it will be the awful smoke of battle. Any conflict with that country will shake Europe to the foundation, and such conflict may be looked forward to at any time. Two more regiments of cavalry have been formed under the Emperor's orders, and various minor additions to the force are likewise reported. All the shipyards are engaged in building ironclads and monitors, of which twenty two are now on the stocks. Extensive railways which have been projected and will be rapidly completed, appear to have more than a commercial value to crafty Ivan Ivanovitch. As soon as the new Russian rifle has been served out to the troops, the country will be in a position to throw off the mask at any moment and stand forth prepared for any openly aggressive policy it may adopt. We think the European powers are fully aware of this, and the bayonets which now flash above in courteous salute may in an instant drop defensively and present a firm, serried line against which the Northern Bear with his bullying cub shall advance only to find how great is the strength of an honest, whole-hearted resistance which brooks neither trifling nor oppression.

The census figures are a great disappointment. No doubt we, like the Americans to the south of us, builded our hopes too high, and are doomed to disappointment, but we cannot but feel a poignant regret that the total population of the Dominion of Canada does not reach five millions. It was hoped that six millions would have been reached, and to fall as far short of this as we have done, the total population being given as 4,823,344, is a terrible come down. We gave the figures by provinces in our news columns last week, together with the increase for the past decade. The figures for the cities show that Halifax has a population of 38,556 as against 36,100 in 1881; such a small increase and so out of proportion to what

was expected, that we wish on many accounts that the authorities would order a civic census of population to be taken at once for our own satisfaction. It was claimed that the last decennial census gave us a population lower by about 4,000 than the facts warranted, and the estimations of the present population ran all the way from 42,000 to 55,000. We fully expected that 45,000 would be near the figure, and we still feel sure that a carefully taken census would bring the sum up some thousands. As to the Counties, those whose chief industry is agriculture have decreased, and the mining counties, with the exception of Pictou, have increased largely in population. Annapolis, for instance, has decreased from 20,598 in 1881 to 19,353, and Cumberland has increased from 27,368 to 34,529. New Brunswick, according to the figures, has only 61 more people this year than in 1881, this showing making it out the most unprogressive province in the Dominion, but as the St. John Gazette points out, this is no worse than the States of Maine and Vermont, which increased only one per cent. in ten years. The results show most conclusively that at present "the star of Empire glitters in the west." Canada does a good deal to secure population, but it appears that a more vigorous effort must be made to achieve the desired results.

Perplexing and puzzling beyond measure, is the general verdict as to the census returns for 1891, and many there be who hold to it that if those returns be correct, those of the previous census were decidedly out. The most pronounced pessimist cannot assert that Nova Scotia is not enjoying a much larger measure of prosperity to day than was enjoyed by her ten years ago. The provincial towns show a very decided increase in population, and to our mind Halifax should do so too. The metropolis shows every indication of growth and prosperity, there are few houses to let, our boarding houses are crowded and building operations brisk. No citizen of Halifax who remembers the city during the decade of the seventies can forget the bottom prices at which real estate and house properties were selling. In those days tenants were difficult to find, many houses were vacant and there were few extensive boarding houses. To-day properties are let before the foundations of the new houses are completed, while rooms in the large and comfortable boarding houses are at a premium. Does any sane Halifaxian believe that if this city increased from 28,000 to 36,000 in the seventies it has only increased from 36,000 to 38,000 in the eighties. The assumption is preposterous, and our city fathers owe it to the fair name of this city to have an enumeration of population made at the earliest possible date. Another curious feature of the census returns is the assumed decrease in population in the counties of Annapolis, Kings and Hants, all of which counties are enjoying a remarkable degree of agricultural prosperity. If the census returns be correct it but proves that young men and women are being educated out of country life, and are seeking homes in the larger centres of population.

When we say the young men and women of the country are being educated out of country life, we express a truth that has been apparent for some time, but even while regretting the fact, we do not wish to be understood as in favor of any backward step in this matter. A little knowledge is proverbially a dangerous thing, and we fear that the amount of schooling the young idea does in the country is only sufficient to make transplantation appear desirable, and not enough to ensure a thorough rooting in belief in the pleasures and profits of agricultural life. It appears that something must be radically wrong with the trend of education. Every mother's son and daughter in our farming country goes to school, and imbibes a certain sort of knowledge or learning, sometimes very superficial, of the branches taught in our common schools. Thus "educated" they become dissatisfied with their surroundings and flock to the cities, where work is not plentiful enough for all who seek it, and many follow up their first move by going away to the United States. We could never return to allowing the young people to grow up without a chance to learn the three R's, but some change in the system at present at work might be fruitful of good results. Why should not some practical agricultural studies be taught in all the schools, and a boy who is to become a farmer be interested in them quite as much as in algebra or geometry? Culture is desirable for its own sake, but if every farmer's son and daughter in the Province were determined to go in for higher education it would be a poor lookout for all. Things must be better balanced than that, and equal honor permissibly to the tilling of the soil, the rearing of herds, and the so-called higher walks of life. The fact that so many gentlemen of birth and fortune have gone to farming for an occupation should have a stimulating effect upon those who think they can better themselves by leaving the farm. The highest good of the whole country can be best compassed by these matters being well balanced—not too many of any one calling, and farming is the thing above all others that should not be neglected.