

The portion of the province not included in the above scheme of division is divided into eight districts: Haliburton, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Algoma, Manitoulin Island, Thunder Bay and Rainy River.

The list of settlers for the Eastern District is first given, and those for the other districts follow in order proceeding westward, because in a general way the order of settlement was from east to west. For geographical reasons it was natural that the east should contain the oldest settlement, though the frontier at Niagara was occupied almost as soon as the east.

In this province, as elsewhere, names of political and religious significance are often the most convenient for the designation of the various groups.

Absolute accuracy is not claimed for the numbers and locations of these groups. The lists, however, are substantially correct, except that in some cases they may be incomplete. The date of settlement is sometimes given approximately, and sometimes there is given an approximation to the number of original families in each group.

Societies for the study of local history, as well as individuals, can accomplish good work by making additions to these lists, by furnishing accurate dates of settlement and the numbers of families in the various groups. The compiler will be pleased to receive such amendments from anyone who will take the trouble to write to him.

Besides the groups given in the schedules many localities were wholly or partially settled by migrations from earlier occupied parts of the province.

In the counties of Victoria, Ontario, Simcoe, York, Wellington, Waterloo and Oxford (in other words, the central portion of the province), the population is very complex, including not only many nationalities and creeds, but also differing widely as to their race origin. If I may be permitted to express an opinion of the relative merits of settlements, I should say the least progressive peoples are found where there has been the least mixture. Where settlers of a kind are bunched together, they retain old customs more tenaciously; and there is something to be said in favor of Colonel Talbot's whim in connection with his settlement of Howard Township (Kent County), which he peopled on the checker-board plan, or alternately, so that no two settlers of the same nationality should be side by side.

But little information can be gleaned from census reports since 1861 bearing on the question of the national origins of the earliest settlers, and even the earlier reports are useful only in connection with