

undoubtedly have found its way to the Muskoka and other districts, is very gratifying. Without attempting in any way to belittle the advantages offered by Manitoba, or to detract from the progress which that province has made of late years, it may be interesting to institute a comparison, founded on the census returns of 1871 and 1881, between the "Prairie Province" and the newer portions of Ontario, a comparison which will prove anything but unfavorable to the latter. In 1871 the white population of Manitoba was 12,228, and in 1881 (exclusive of an extension of the province made shortly before taking the census and not included in 1871) it had risen to 47,548. The addition made to the population during the decade was at the rate of 3,562 per annum, the total increase for the ten years being 288 per cent. Comparing these figures with those given for Muskoka alone, we find that in 1871 the population of the latter district was 6,919. In 1881 it had increased to 27,204, or at the rate of 2,028 per annum during the ten years, the total increase for the period being 293 per cent. Manitoba, between 1871 and 1881, received one additional settler for every 230 acres of land; Muskoka during the same period received one for every 159 acres. Again, in Manitoba and the North-West the number of acres settled upon in 1881 by means of "homesteads" and "pre-emptions" was about 704,320, or one acre in every 112; while in Muskoka there were 104,522 acres of land located as Free Grants and sold during the same year, or one acre in every 30 throughout the whole district. And when it is remembered that in Muskoka there are no such centres of population and trade as Winnipeg and other places in Manitoba, the facts we have given will tell still more in favor of the Muskoka district. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it must be admitted that the newer portions of Ontario are advancing towards their full development with rapid strides, and the state of facts revealed by the last census, as compared with that of 1871, cannot but be gratifying to every one who has the progress and prosperity of the outlying districts of our Province at heart.

LETTERS ON FREE GRANT BUSINESS.

The average number of letters written from the Free Grant branch of the Department during the years 1868-71 was 818 per annum, while during the period of 1872-82 it was 2,952 per annum, or an increase of 260 per cent.

TOWNSHIPS.

In 1871 the number of townships open for location under the Free Grants Act was 54, and the number of agents for the disposal of Free Grant lands 10. In 1882 the number of townships open for location was 123, and the number of agents 16.