

9 per cent. of the Boots and Shoes. And nothing speaks more strongly of the progress of Carleton than the fact that, insulated and cut off from the outer world as she has been for many long years, only one County has, in the ten years from 1851 to 1861, surpassed her in proportionate increase of population, and that she was five per centum above any other, and 17-35 per cent. above the average of the Province. Albert, owing to the richness of her mines, increased 49-59 per centum ; Carleton 47-40, and Victoria 42-40.

This wonderful proportionate production of our County must be attributed in the first place to the surpassing fertility of its soil, and secondly to the spirit and enterprise of its people.

But Carleton would have shown a much more wonderful production than this were it not for the barrier drawn across its centre by the River St. John. On the West side are the centres of business, the towns and villiages, the principal mail routes and means of communication. To reach the world the East side must cross the River. A great gulf separates East from West. During the winter the ice forms a sufficient Bridge. But during summer the only means of crossing are boats propelled by hand (except one horse boat). One can scarcely, without an actual experience, realise the loss, cost, and vexation arising from the want of better facilities for crossing. In the Spring and Fall, when the ice is running, even these poor substitutes for a Bridge are laid up ; and for weeks the River is, for the purposes of ordinary business, impassible. It follows that the East side is regarded as a sort of forlorn region. Land is of less value—the farmer and laborer's toil is less remunerative, on that side than on this. On this account the settlement of the East side is very much retarded. Nevertheless settlement, under all these drawbacks, is proceeding on that side with astonishing rapidity. More than one half the surface of Carleton lies on the East side of the River St. John. The East has 385,000 acres ; the West 315,000. But the effect which the River has had is shown in this : on the Western side there are 81,247 acres improved ; on the Eastern side but 19,983. On the Western side there are in farms unimproved 190,202 acres ; on the Eastern side only 70,558 acres. And while on the Eastern side there remains probably some 150,000 acres of ungranted lands, the Crown has scarcely an acre left on the West.