

towns in Canada. In 1842, a period so recent that most will remember it, Toronto contained 13,000 inhabitants; in 1852, 30,763; and in 1856, 42,000. Toronto is situated on Lake Ontario, and may be considered as the type of a thriving commercial Canadian port on one of the great lakes. One more example will suffice, and that one is taken from the centre of a fine agricultural district:—London, in Upper Canada, contained, in 1850, 5,124 inhabitants; its population in 1856 exceeded 15,000, a nearly threefold increase in six years.

These startling instances of sudden growth are by no means exceptions to the rule; other towns and cities are not deprived of their population to swell that of more favoured and prosperous communities, nor is the country drained to feed the towns. On the contrary, the progress is general; increase is the rule throughout, both in cities and rural districts.

Everywhere postal communication is complete; the most distant hamlet has its post-office, and the number of offices in Canada is now about 1,720. The electric telegraph passes through every town and almost every village in the province, and the number of miles in operation at this time is 4,046. The approach or arrival of a steamer or sailing vessel at Quebec is known very nearly at the same moment in every town of the lower and upper portions of the province. All improvements in the arts or sciences affecting the commercial or industrial interests of her people are quickly introduced into Canada, and with numerous elements of adaptation and progress within her reach, she eagerly avails herself of the practice and enterprise of other countries.

The great and unfailing source of this steady growth, this quiet but irresistible onward movement of Canada, has been IMMIGRATION; the infusion of new blood, the adoption of a new and prosperous home by tens of thousands from across the seas and beyond the frontiers; a home which, with all its immunities, privileges, and hopes, is offered, requiring no other return than a strong arm, a willing heart, and a confident self-relying trust in the future, and in the happiness and prosperity of their adopted country. This invitation, though feebly proffered hitherto, because not coupled with the positive advantages which Canada now enjoys, has succeeded in winning to her shores and fortunes, within the past twelve years, a full half million of stout and trusting hearts.

THE LAWS AND MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS OF CANADA.

It is no exaggeration to say, that the Canadas enjoy more thorough rational freedom than any country in the world.