

## THE CENSUS OF 1881.

The census of 1881 gives the Dominion a total population of 4,350,933, an increase within the decade of 664,337 or a little over 18 per cent. (18'02) ; details will be found elsewhere in this issue. The objections to the mode in which the census was taken are obvious, and it is not the best calculated to ensure accuracy. The members of a family are counted where the heads reside, whether they be at home or not. In this way an accurate counting of families, according to birth and survival, may be got ; but there is obvious danger that persons who no longer form part of the family and who do not even live in the country may be counted. The safer mode of enumeration is to take all the persons who slept in each house on a given night throughout the whole country, as is done in the United Kingdom. But even this plan is not without difficulties. To carry it out it is necessary to leave the census papers at each house before the day in question. But that they would all be filled up the next day would be too much to expect. There are some families in which the necessary writing-power is wanting, and in which the papers could not even be read without the aid of friends. Some papers so left would be lost. Where delay occurred in filling up the papers, it would be necessary to trust to memory, and mistakes would inevitably occur. But members of the family who no longer reside in the province in which their parents live or even in the country, could not be counted, and mistakes would not systematically be made, as they will be under the plan actually in vogue. As this is not the first time the *de jure* system has been followed in Canada, the errors will not be so great as they would on its first adoption ; the new errors would only be extensions of the old, keeping pace with the movement of the younger members of families.

The increase varies very much in different provinces :

Province.	Increase per cent.
Ontario .....	18.05
Quebec .....	14.01
Nova Scotia .....	13.61
New Brunswick .....	12.44
Prince Edward Island.....	14.63
Manitoba.....	28.90
British Columbia .....	76.66
Territories .....	65.28
The increase per cent. for the Dominion is	18.02

Ontario represents, with singular accuracy, the medium increase, being 18'05, while the total is 18'02. The increase of Ontario is irregular in the distribution. Muskoka, a new country, shows the largest increase of any rural district (14,794) ; while in Halton, not for the first time, Haldimand and South

Perth, there is a decrease. The soil where the decrease occurs is bordering on a state of exhaustion and requires to be revived. The increase in Essex (14,283) is in many respects the most remarkable. The county of Essex had, at the commencement of the decade, a large quantity of virgin soil, and she enjoys the best climate of any part of the Province. She was singular in having had so large an area left in a primeval state ; and many kinds of wood which she supplies had become valuable, some of them finding a market in the States. The variety of her products is great, including wine, tobacco and Indian corn, which are seldom produced, if at all, in many other counties. An increase of Lambton (10,328) may be set down partly to the area which remained to be brought under cultivation, and partly to her petroleum treasures.

The increase of the Province of Quebec is intelligible enough, without resorting to the supposition, probably not altogether incorrect, that the expatriated members of families often figure in the census tables. Quebec is at once old and new ; with most of the attributes of vigorous youth and experienced age. If some of her old settlements are very old, she possesses the valued prize of inexhaustible stores of rich virgin soil, extensive forests of timber, mines of phosphate, slate, gold, etc. Her young men are perhaps too much in the habit of leaving home ; though a migration which is set in motion by the attraction of superior temptations is not to be condemned as unnatural. Of the number that return, many bring back knowledge acquired during their absence which will prove of general utility. There never was any reason for the minute *morcellement* of the old lands in Quebec ; for there was always new land to be had in abundance. Now that these new lands have become, through railways and other means, more accessible, we may expect to see large extensions of settlement. Naturally very prolific, Quebec is more likely, than perhaps even Ontario, to give a good account of herself in the future. The chief expansion of population in Ontario must be sought, in future, in the new northern and north-western settlements, and in an increase of town population. On the borders of lake Superior, Ontario encounters a sub-arctic vegetation ; while farther North-west, as the level lowers and the soil changes, a better vegetation is met with. Quebec has also the means of future expansion in population ; in natural fecundity she will probably be found to be unequalled, in any other part of the country.

It will surprise many to see that Quebec city shows an increase of population, her 59,699 inhabitants having become 62,447.

Levis, which is another Quebec, on the south bank of the St. Lawrence, has indeed undergone a serious decline ; nothing less than a deduction of 4,213 from 11,810 in the decade, if there be no mistake in the figures, of which we do not feel certain. The town population is found, as a rule, to follow the law of increasing with the density of the surrounding population ; though cases of special increase, as where towns are the seats of manufactures and such as that of St. Thomas, Ontario, where the increase is from 2,197 to 8,370, are due to other causes, which are often connected with railway communication. Montreal gained a greater number (33,637), than Toronto ; though it was of course easier to add in the former city that number to a population of 107,225, than 30,333, the increase of Toronto, to a population of only 56,092. On the other hand, the percentage gained by Toronto, 54, is more easily made than an equal percentage would be in a larger city. Per centage measurement of population appears a variable standard, and must on that account be used with caution when it is not necessary to reject it altogether. A country gets a certain gain from immigration that tells powerfully in per centage measurement, on a small population, but adds little to a large population ; it is so easy to double a small and so difficult to double a large population. British Columbia shows an increase of 76'66 ; but her total white population is a long way from being half that of the city of Montreal.

The average increase of the population of the Dominion is not high. When the United States had a population not very much greater than ours, and when, therefore, the percentage rule would not be unfair, she showed a much larger percentage of increase. In the decade ending in 1800, the percentage was 35'01 ; and at no subsequent census up to 1840 was it less than 32. From 1801 to 1811 the United Kingdom made an increase of 13'99, which, considering the amount of the population and the absence of immigration, gives a more striking result than our present census. It is probable, however, that the large percentages, contrary to the known law of percentages, are yet to be made by Canada. In this respect the easily cultivated and richly productive soil of our north-west must tell ; and twenty years hence, it is within the bounds of probability, that the population of Canada may be double what it is to-day.

## NEW YORK INSURANCE BUSINESS.

From a chart of the insurance business done by the various companies, fire, ocean and inland marine, operating in New York, the satisfactory assurance is gathered that