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## THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

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**Q**UEBEC is the oldest province of the Canadian confederation, European settlement having begun in 1608, when Champlain founded the city of Quebec. It is also the largest province, the vast territory long known as Ungava, and now officially called New Quebec, having been added in 1912 to the former limits. The northern part of the province has now, therefore, an extensive coastline bordering on Ungava Bay, Hudson Straits, Hudson Bay and James Bay. The narrow strip of the northeast coast, known as Labrador, is claimed by Newfoundland. Previously to 1912 the area of the Province of Quebec was 351,873 square miles; it is now 703,653 square miles. It is therefore more than double as large as France and the British Isles together. In population it is second to Ontario. By the census of 1901 Quebec's population was 1,648,898 and in 1911 the figures were 2,002,712. As these numbers show, there has been a substantial growth in the last decade. It is also a growth largely due to natural increase, as the eastern provinces of Canada only receive a small proportion of the yearly immigration from Europe. Ever since Canada came under British rule in 1760, the French-Canadian population, which constitutes the majority in the province, has increased at a steady rate. Nor is this increase represented by the provincial figures, as for half a century and more there has been a large overflow into the other provinces