

barely held its own, the great fire having occurred in the meantime. In 1891 the population of St. John had fallen to 39,179 a decrease of upwards of 2,000 from the previous census. In 1901 the population of the city was 40,711, an increase of a little more than 1500 in 10 years.

Let us compare these last figures with the census returns of Halifax. In 1831 Halifax city had 14,422 inhabitants and, though much older than St. John, the latter city had outstripped it in population. In 1851 Halifax had 20,749 inhabitants or more than 10,000 less than St. John. In 1861 the population of Halifax was 25,626, so that St. John was then nearly 14,000 ahead of it. In 1871 the population of Halifax, was 29,582. In 1881 it was 36,100. In 1891, 38,437 and in 1901, 40,832. For the first time in its history since a regular census was taken the population of Halifax exceeded that of St. John. In other words while Halifax has been growing, steadily, the population of St. John has been standing still or declining for the past 30 years. In 1901 there were fewer people by 614 than there were in 1871. In the meantime Halifax has added upwards of 11,000 to its population.

No one will pretend to say, we think that Halifax possesses the same natural advantages as St. John. The latter is situated at the mouth of a large river which brings down every year, millions of feet of lumber to give employment to the mills about St. John, and to add to its export trade. The same river furnishes agricultural products to feed the people of St. John. St. John possesses a harbor which is never frozen over in the winter and which is available as a winter port for

the products of the west, yet with all these advantages, Halifax is outstripping our New Brunswick city and there ought to be some way of ascertaining why this is so and how such a condition of affairs may be remedied. Is the fault with the people of St. John or is it due to some change in the condition of the Province itself? It may be said that the falling off of the population of St. John was caused by the great fire, but while this, no doubt had its effect, it cannot be held responsible for the whole difficulty. Portland, Maine had a great fire in 1866 which was quite as destructive as that of St. John, yet its population is now more than double what it was was prior to the fire. Chicago had also a great fire 35 years ago but that did not stop the growth of that wonderful city, and it has now four times as many people as it had before its great conflagration. A study of the figures of the population of St. John shows that even before the fire, its growth had received a check for while the rate of increase between 1851 and 1861 was 24 per cent. between 1861 and 1871 it was less than 7 per cent. During the same decade the population of the whole province increased by about 13 per cent. Since 1861 the population of New Brunswick has increased by 31 per cent. while that of St. John has increased less than 5 per cent. It is to be remarked however, that most of the increase of population in New Brunswick has been in the counties along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The County of Charlotte has has now a smaller number of inhabitants than it had in 1861, having declined from 23,363, to 22,415. The counties on the St. John river, excluding St. John, had 90,166 inhabitants