

All these towns are what might be called "farm towns." They depend for their prosperity on the country surrounding them. From 1872 to 1884 while rural population was increasing their population also increased. When rural population began to decline in 1881 the population of these towns also started on the down grade.

Still more significant are the figures for urban centres, taken as a whole, and more particularly the figures for the last few years.

The population of all the villages and towns in Ontario was 5,371 less in 1918 than for two years before. The population of cities **increased** by 35,288 in the same time.

The smaller urban centres and the townships are in the same boat. Their interests are identical. Why then should they not act together in changing conditions from which they both suffer ?

A table given on page 15 shows the population of representative townships east, west and north of Toronto in 1872, 1881 and 1918. The townships named are not the poorest in the Province ; they might rather be described as

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