

from roughly 7,000 persons to less than 4,000 in the half-century, when, at a low rate of natural increase and making no allowance for immigration, that population should now be 11,000? Where are the missing 7,000 people? The answer is easy enough: either in the country districts of Western Canada and the United States, or in Canadian and American cities.

In the settlement of the North American continent, the young men of each community have as they grew up become the founders, the pioneers of still other communities further West, even as far as San Francisco, Vancouver, and Prince Rupert. The great North American continent, with its unrivalled transportation system; inhabited by men of one race who spoke one language and lived under similar institutions, has become what I should call a single labour market of area unparalleled in the history of the world. Labour has been more mobile here than elsewhere, and it is one of the first principles of political economy that, other things being equal, the greatest production takes place where labour is most mobile—moves most freely to those localities where it is most needed and is best rewarded. The West needs these labourers worse than does Chinguacousy; it rewards them better. Their per capita production of wealth is greater in the West than in their home township. They could not have produced so much nor earned so much in Chinguacousy as they produce and earn in the West. Therefore they go West.

This mobility of labour on the North American continent is mainly due to the predominance of a single language. The English-speaking labourer finds himself at home wherever he goes, and is consequently ready to go anywhere. This, however, is not the case with the French-Canadians. The barriers of language and religion, the distaste for migration into an alien community and the ignorance of the economic conditions and opportunities of that community—make them cling to their native place. This fact at least partially explains the greater density of the French-speaking rural population. It also explains why the growing French population floods the Eastern Townships and the Ottawa River counties of Ontario in preference to going West.

The great mobility of labour and the "call of the West"—which is really the call of the economic opportunities there—will account for Chinguacousy's loss of her natural increase of the past fifty years, which we have estimated at 4,000 persons. But they are hardly sufficient to account for the loss of nearly half the population resident in the township in 1861. To explain this absolute decrease of population we must compare the methods of production in use at the two periods.