

who came to Canada in the 17th century have no reason to regret the choice of their forefathers. Why should not some of these modern Bretons follow the example and seek new homes around Lake St. John or Lake Nominigou?

The beet root industry can hardly be said to be popular with our *habitants*, notwithstanding the authoritative recommendation which it has received and the good results attained by some of our farmers. The people of British Columbia, according to the *Vancouver World*, are disposed to look hopefully upon that branch of culture. Much dependence will be naturally placed on the verdict of Mr. Skaife, who has made a careful study of the whole subject in Germany, and is now conducting experiments on a large scale in Berthier. That verdict will, of course, be prompted by the results of the present trial. It is urged that, on previous occasions, the culture of the sugar beet in this province had not fair play, and that the whole harm was done by rash, unskilful and careless cultivation. It is earnestly to be hoped that Mr. Skaife's expectations will be fulfilled. There seems to be no good reason why the industry should not prosper in suitable localities in this province as well as in Northern Germany, where it has long been a staple. In British Columbia a test is also being made, and there is every prospect that beet-growing will form hereafter one of the regular industries of that fine province.

IMMIGRATION.

Before long we shall be awaiting with interest the returns of the next decennial census. At what rate have we been increasing? How has the increase been distributed over the Dominion. To what causes has it been due? Where it has been due to immigration, what has been its character? What countries have most contributed to it? Have the new comers been, for the most part, healthy, industrious and moral? Have they, in the main, been calculated to add to the national strength, wealth and reputation? These are questions which we shall be glad to see satisfactorily answered.

Those who read the very full reports issued yearly by the department which has charge of immigration will be prepared for some, at least, of the statistics which the census will lay before the public. There is, indeed, no phase of our development from year to year more interesting or important than the growth of our population by accessions from different parts of the world. Under the old regime the course of colonization was from the first clearly defined. New France was the genuine daughter of old France. For a century and a half a strict watch was maintained on the gates of the colony, both by sea and by land, lest any undesirable persons should obtain admission. The consequence was a homogeneity without parallel in any other part of North America. When the country was handed over to the Crown of England, a change began to take place. Even before the cession of the interior, German settlements had been organized in Nova Scotia, and, after the capitulation of Montreal had completed the transfer, European nationalities, hitherto excluded—continental as well as insular—were allowed a footing on the soil. Till after the peace of 1815, however, the accessions were mainly from the States to the south of us—the Loyalists of the Revolution predominating. To trace our growth since the War of 1812-15—a memorable epoch for Canada in more ways than one—would

be a serviceable but somewhat difficult task, as it is only within recent years that due care has been taken to classify the incomers according to origin. Since Confederation our immigration statistics are full and trustworthy. The movement of inter-provincial migration since 1867, and the extent to which persons of different races have inter-married—on these points, which have been carefully studied in some of the States—we are still greatly in the dark.

Still it is something to know from what sources our nationality is being built up, and we have ample information—which will be of greater value years hence than it is to-day—as to the Menonite, Icelandic, Scandinavian, Hungarian, and other settlements in Manitoba and the North-West. In the first or second generation after their arrival, it is generally possible to identify members of these nationalities by their names, but the temptation to anglify them, especially when (as they sometimes do) they resemble English types of family nomenclature, is very strong, and where their females are married to men of British race, any trace of their origin is lost. The proportion of some of these foreign elements in our North-West population is much larger than many of our readers are probably aware of. For instance, it seems hardly credible that in fifteen years Canada has attracted one-tenth of the entire population of Iceland. The settlement in our North-West of these hardy, thrifty, intelligent and moral people, speaking a tongue which is the *ursprache*, or fountain-speech of the Teutonic languages, including the Saxon side of our own English—is one of the most interesting phenomena in our history. To Icelanders has been—not without reason—ascribed the earliest discovery of this continent from the Atlantic, and scholars like Mr. Leland have hazarded the theory that possibly they left the mark of their presence on the Indians of the Abenakis family. The Scandinavian settlers are also interesting from the association of the Northmen with the growth of both the French-speaking and English-speaking sections of our nationality. Of Germans the North-West has also a share, though their central stronghold is Ontario, and their number in the Dominion is larger than the population of more than one of our provinces.

The main thing, however, is that our later immigrants—not only of the races mentioned—but of the more familiar stocks of the United Kingdom, have, in general, been of the type best suited for colonization. Exceptions there have been, it is true, where mistaken benevolence pushed to excess the system of assisted passages. Not that poverty is in itself an objection. Far from it. Sound hearts, and stalwart frames, and honest ambition, soon recover from the disease of empty pockets. It was of just such candidates for independence that the committee of the Montreal St. Andrew's Society said in their last report that they were a credit to the country they had left and a valuable acquisition to Canada. But as a clergyman, who has had some experience of emigration, says, in another report, there is no room in Canada for idle loafers. Happily, it is possible to benefit our kinsmen across the ocean, while at the same time guarding our own interests, and what interest is more worthy of protection than the prestige of our Canadian citizenship? And we have just been reminded that the rumours of Mormon invasion are becoming more alarming. We have taken steps to keep out embezzlers and boodlers, and surely we do not want that other iniquity.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

The utterances of Sir Charles Tupper, in connection with the Imperial Federation movement in England, have naturally aroused discussion in the French-Canadian press. As our readers know, the scheme has never commended itself to our fellow-citizens of French origin, some of whom have taken a strong stand against it. Indeed, with the exception of a comparatively small proportion of the population, there is no clearly expressed desire on the part of the Canadian people, whether British or French, to enter into the new relations, or to incur the responsibilities, which Imperial Federation might impose. As to what those relations and responsibilities might be we are as yet in the dark. Neither in England nor in Canada has any definite and authoritative programme been drawn up and submitted to the Old Country and Colonies by the Federationist leaders. The late Right Hon. Mr. Forster, who was the first president of the League, avoided any formulation of the details which would be *de rigueur* if the principle were accepted. Lord Rosebery has still more strongly opposed any attempt to bind the League by the enunciation of a *modus operandi*. His Lordship seems to think that the main object to be sought, for the present at least, is the inculcation of the idea of Imperial Unity, of loyalty to the tie that binds all England's possessions together, and of resistance to any counter movement, openly or implicitly aiming at disintegration. In February last Mr. Sandford Fleming, in an address delivered at a League meeting in Ottawa, undertook to remove misconceptions as to the purpose contemplated by himself and his colleagues, and his words were most assuring on the point that all details should be left open questions. The aims of the League (as far, at any rate, as its Canadian branch was concerned) were, he said, to promote the discussion of means to maintain the integrity of the Empire; to further the interchange and development of the resources of the several portions of the Empire; and to resist measures tending to disintegration. These were its only aims; and that there might be no ground for alarm in the minds of Canadians as to the possible effects of Federation (should it be brought about) on their present position of independence, it was added that, in the opinion of Canadian Leaguers, any scheme would prove abortive which failed to make the maintenance of our actual political rights one of its indispensable features.

This last proviso ought to clear the League of any suspicion of cherishing aims which might be subversive of the constitution, political organization and perfect freedom from outside control, that we have for years enjoyed. We cannot but regard it as a mistake that anything should have been said or done which might give the impression of a foregone conclusion, however harmless in itself, the proposal or series of proposals might be. If there is to be a convention, well and good. It is for the different parts of the Empire to appoint their delegates to it. What takes place there, when the whole vast Empire meets in a kind of deliberative club, may tend to solve the question of Imperial integrity in a manner generally satisfactory. But to put forward cut-and-dried schemes in advance of the convention can, it seems to us, only arouse prejudice. It is now nearly twenty years since Imperial Federation was first discussed in an English magazine, and ever since it has been more or less a live question. It has helped to bring