

The New Brunswick Magazine.

Vol. V.

FEBRUARY, 1905.

No. 1

WHY DOES ST. JOHN NOT GROW?

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[The question which Dr. Hannay asks in the heading of this article is one of vital importance to the people of St. John. For thirty years the population of St. John has been at a stand still. What is the reason? Dr. Hannay does not attempt to answer this question, but he gives some facts regarding the growth of some sections of the Province of New Brunswick and the stagnation of others. The question, vital to every resident of St. John is, how to remove the stagnation in that city—in other words, how can St. John be given a start ahead. The New Brunswick Magazine wants suggestions along this line from thinking people—not long letters, but suggestions, brief and trenchant that will tell the people plainly what they lack and the remedy for present conditions. — Editor N. B. Magazine.]

The question which I have placed at the head of this article is a very pertinent one and ought to interest every inhabitant of New Brunswick, for the growth of St. John may be taken in some measure to indicate the growth of the Province. St. John is our chief commercial centre, and if it is not growing as rapidly as it ought to do the cause ought to be discovered and, if possible, a remedy found. There was a time when the city of St. John grew quite rapidly. The first census of the Province was taken in the year 1834, and then the population of St. John, within its present boundaries,

was 16,100. The second census was taken in 1840 and then St. John had 26,923 inhabitants, having increased by 10,823 in six years. Another census was taken in 1851 and then St. John had 31,174 inhabitants. The city was still growing but much more slowly than prior to the preceding census. In 1861, St. John had 38,817 inhabitants, a very respectable increase of 24 per cent. In 1871 the first Dominion census was taken and St. John at that time had 41,325 inhabitants. This was not a large increase but it was something. In 1881 the population of St. John was 41,325; the city had