

Providence.

In truth, at $8\frac{3}{4}$ millions, the decade is a remarkable one in our population annals, standing second in the record from Confederation. We celebrate our Jubilee on a very high note. In no other decade but one has the absolute gain been even half so much - in fact, one-third would be nearer. Even on a percentage basis our latest decade is the second best in our history, and as we go on that sort of showing will be harder and harder to keep up.

But I think the best corrective of any dissatisfaction is to look abroad upon our neighbors. It would be unfair to cite those countries of Eastern Europe which lay directly in the path of the War. Yet I cannot forbear a reference to the last statistical Year Book of Latvia to reach us. Latvia is one of the new Republics formed in what was once the Baltic provinces of Russia, with Riga as its capital. In the six years, 1914-1920, the population of Latvia fell from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ millions. In other words, the war cost that little state one fourth of its human material, or if we consider the normal natural increase, perhaps a round million - in a community a quarter the size of Canada. Undoubtedly parts of Poland and of what was Austro-Hungary suffered equally; whilst in vast Russia, where the cup of horror is not yet drained, it will be fortunate if the toll of war, pestilence and famine - those three dread sisters Malthus calls the "devourers of men" - is less than 20 or even 25 millions. Perhaps even Western Europe offers unfair comparisons with Canada; France fell from 39,600,000 in 1911 to 37,500,000, though the latter figure includes Alsace-Lorraine, which the former does not: the loss within her present limits has been four millions. Germany kept the war outside her borders and gained a million and a half within her present area, being now 60,900,000. On the basis of her pre-war rate of increase, however, she has lost six million lives. But we are at least reasonable in comparing Canada with

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 120)

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