

the Imperial treaties will have to be sustained. It has been said that the British Parliament would, in the event which has now arisen, pass the necessary legislation to effect the object in view. It would be unfortunate, if it should become necessary, to exercise the power of the Imperial Parliament, the supremacy of which in the case in question is undoubted; but the honor of Great Britain must be maintained. The microscopic politicians of Newfoundland are potential chiefly for mischief, and the worst of it is that they are simply playing their own game.

Apparently it will take more than one judicial decision to put down lotteries in the Province of Quebec. The prizes drawn in the *Loterie du Peuple* have just been announced. This concern gave itself out as the only lottery authorized by the Legislature. If we are to regard the recent decision which pronounces all lotteries in Quebec illegal, this is one too many. This form of gambling dies hard. Some time ago it was transformed into the handmaid of religion; the Church and the lottery formed a partnership which outlived the majority of partnerships. Is the lottery in Quebec doomed to die or destined to survive? At present a doubt exists.

THE OUTFLOW AND INFLOW OF POPULATION.

What resembles a general awakening to the necessity of doing something to improve the agriculture of Quebec is visible. On this the question of the exodus is believed largely to depend. The first report of committee of the legislature, which enquired into the causes of the outflow of population, points out that the agriculture of the province has not kept pace with improvements in other directions; and a meeting of agriculturists in the city of Quebec has suggested various improvements which are deemed indispensable. Visits to the Experimental Farm at Ottawa and a wider distribution of its bulletins are suggested. The extension of creameries and cheese factories, and the consolidation of existing ones when possible, are recommended.

The Emigration Committee reports that Quebec farmers are misled by "false and pernicious ideas concerning the great prosperity and superior condition of the urban population." The tendency of the rural population to towns is universal; and it may be, as pointed out, that education has a tendency to create a distaste for farm life. This opinion is not new; Jefferson expressed it strongly in the beginning of the century, and he believed that if there were less education there would be more people earning their living by farming.

The story of the exodus has been repeated so often that it is becoming tiresome. Nevertheless the phenomena of the movement of population deserves to be carefully studied. There are signs that the outflow of population from Quebec has reached and even passed its height; a reflux has set in and has even reached extensive dimensions. The *Courrier de St. Hyacinthe* shows that during eighteen

months, from December last, no less than 727 families had returned from the United States to the district of St. Hyacinthe alone. The figures for each month are given in detail, so that, we presume, there is no mistake as to the real number. This movement is not new, it has been going on for years; and yet, while we are daily reminded of the outflow, we hear little of the return tide.

The figures are obtained from the collectors of customs, with whom the editor of the *Courrier* communicated, and they may, therefore, be regarded as official. There are 23 of these officers in the Province, eighteen of whom have been heard from. The return movement has been felt at most of the ports from which reports have been obtained, showing that, during the year 1892, no less than 1,894 families returned from the United States to their native country at the following ports:

Port of Clarenceville ..	5 families.
" St. Armand.....	39 "
" Lacolle.....	31 "
" Sorel.....	52 "
" Frelighsburg ..	12 "
" Trois-Rivieres..	260 "
" St. Jean.....	297 "
" St. Hyacinthe..	527 "
" Quebec.....	671 "
Total	1,894 "

But this was not all: arrivals at other ports raised the total number of returned emigrants during a single year to 3,094 families. The Hon. M. Bruyere, who alluded to these returns in a speech in the Legislative Council of Quebec, put the number of each family at five, which for a sedentary family would not be excessive, whence is deduced the conclusion that 77,250 Canadians returned to Quebec last year. There is, of course, no means of testing the accuracy of the estimate. If the number of families be relied on, it would probably have to be with this reserve, that sometimes individuals, when unattached, were counted as if each was a family. It is impossible to conceive that, among so large a number, there should not be some who had no family with them. But, in any case, the number is large enough to furnish a strong ground of hope that this movement rests on some substantial attraction which will ensure its continuance for some time.

When the emigrants went to the United States they were inspired by the hope that they would better their condition in the change of country. Does their return imply disappointment, or have they made enough money to set them up in their native country? They have certainly brought back with them experience, which can scarcely be other than of value to them. All movements of this kind, whether in one direction or the other, tend to increase. Hitherto the outflow has been aided by visits, by correspondence, of the pioneers; the emigrants will hardly tell a tale that will induce further emigration. The probability is that the inward move will increase and the outward decrease. When the movement of population is natural and easy, though it cross the international line, it is not necessarily either abnormal or injurious. What is best for the individual can scarcely be bad for the

aggregate. Sometimes they take one direction, sometimes another.

A strong set of population from the United States to our North-West may be looked on as certain for years to come. It has already attained considerable force. All the neighboring States will be laid under contribution. Why are the people from Michigan, Montana and other States wending their way to the Canadian North-West? They do not go blind-folded, but they generally pay advance visits before making up their minds. They compare their chances in the two countries, and they believe that in our North-West the farmer has a better chance than in the Union. Experience has but to confirm this opinion to make the movement in our direction a most important one. An unwise depreciation of Canada by its own sons is often inconsiderately indulged in. Every American immigrant is an answer to this injurious talk. Americans by their presence among us show a confidence in our resources which many Canadians lack: a large number of American settlers on our prairies will be living evidence that our soil is as grateful and offers as large attractions as that of the Republic: room is more ample, and immense future development, within a reasonable time, probable.

THE CAUSES OF FAILURE.

The existence of mercantile agencies, which make enquiry into the character and commercial standing of parties who engage in business and seek credit, does not nowadays need, as it once did, either explanation or defence. Such organizations have been found necessary by those who grant credit; the records kept and information given have been found of great service to banks, manufacturers, trust companies, and importers. The Bradstreet Company has just issued a brochure which is full of interest for those who desire to trace the causes of commercial failure. In the *Record* of this company, we find a definition of credit given thus:

"Commercial credit is an estimate of the ability and disposition of individuals, firms or corporations to meet business engagements. It was formerly based chiefly on (1) reputation, and (2) capital in business; but the establishment of the mercantile agency has rendered necessary a restatement of the bases of commercial credit, to wit: (1) A closer approximation to character; (2) total net worth, the element of contingent liabilities being considered, and (3) other facts bearing on the probability of success or failure in business."

Evidently, insufficient capital (or the effort to do too much business with a given capital) is a leading cause of failure. The proportion failing from this cause is shown to be, taking an average of three recent years, 36½ per cent. in the United States, and 61½ per cent. in Canada. But "as the total of those failing with insufficient capital as the prime cause of failure was only 43 per cent. of the aggregate which failed with \$5,000 capital or less, it is fair to conclude that even among concerns with limited capital, general reputation and record for fair dealing have more to do with determining a credit-rating than capital employed or net worth."

According to this authority the number of failures among the 1,051,564 traders of