

The next large and distinctive immigration was that of the United Empire Loyalists, from the thirteen revolted colonies to the Maritime Provinces, (chiefly New Brunswick), to the Eastern Townships of Quebec and to Ontario, where they formed the nucleus of the population in as marked a manner as did the French settlers in Quebec.

There does not appear to have been any exact record of the statistics of this movement; but, according to an estimate of Governor Parr, in a despatch to the Imperial Government, the total number of those who arrived in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1784, was 20,000. They continued to arrive in small bodies for several years. The number of those who came to the Province of Quebec was, in 1784, according to Dr. Taché, 10,000; and Dr. Ryerson states that there was an actual count made of 10,000 who settled in Ontario in 1783 and 1784, to which were added accessions more or less numerous for several years. In round numbers, therefore, more than 40,000 U. E. Loyalists settled in Canada during the years immediately following the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

The three main immigrations to Canada are, therefore, the French, the U. E. Loyalist and that from the United Kingdom, and they have planted in Canadian soil the roots of a distinct political system from that of the United States.

In considering this point of the nature of the population planted by these first and main immigrations, it is to be remarked that, in view of the more rapid and early development of the agricultural, industrial and commercial resources of the United States, that field has been considered by many more favorable for settlement than Canada, and consequently had a larger immigration, although a comparison of the figures undoubtedly shows that now the balance of advantage in this regard is being very rapidly redressed. The desire to better the conditions of life has been the cause of immigration alike into Canada and the United States. But while those who felt sympathy with Republican institutions have settled in the States, attachment to British institutions has led to the Canadian immigration. Thus the frontier line has operated largely as a political sieve, the result being shown in what may be called the national sentiment of the Canadian people to-day.

The statistics shew a large and steady increase of population in the Province of Quebec over any possible natural increase, from the time of the U. E. Loyalist immigration to 1822. From that period to the present there does not appear to have been a large immigration in any one year, but a small, steady increase over the ordinary growth of the population.

In Ontario, from the date of the U. E. Loyalist settlement to 1841, the increase of population was exceedingly rapid. The census of that year gives the population as

455,688, shewing an average yearly growth of more than 7,800; while from 1841 to 1871, the average annual increase was 38,838, in both periods proving a large immigration.

In New Brunswick, from the Loyalist settlement to the first census in 1824, the population increased from 11,236 to 74,176. In the next sixteen years to 1841, there was an increase of 81,986 or 5,124 annually, which must have been largely due to immigration. Since then the growth has been at a less rate, shewing a slower tide of immigration.

The population of Nova Scotia in 1784 is given as 42,347 of British origin, besides the French Acadians, estimated by Dr. Taché at 14,000. The first complete census was not taken until 1817, when the number of inhabitants was found to be 81,351. By 1827, the population had increased one-third, but the immigration in the next decenniad must have been still larger, the increase of population having been more than 7,000 a year, or five-eighths in eleven years. After this date, immigration seems to have slackened, the figures shewing the population to have doubled in about forty years and, in 1881, it was 440,572.

The first census of Prince Edward Island was taken in 1798, when the total population was 4,372. No accurate enumeration was again obtained until 1841, when it was found to be 47,042. Since then there does not seem to have been any large immigration, the population in 1881, forty years later, being 108,891.

Coming to the period when the actual figures of immigration began to be taken, the first records of arrivals by the St. Lawrence route at the port of Quebec are found between the years 1819 and 1825, and place the number who landed during that period at 68,534. It appears from the published details that, even at that early date, the St. Lawrence route was used as offering facilities to passengers destined for the Western States, and it is estimated that, of the immigrants then arriving, one-third settled in Quebec, one-third in Ontario and the other third crossed the line to the United States.

The records of the Quebec Immigration Agency of the Government begin with the year 1829 and continue to the present. The summary which we lay before our readers is interesting, as containing an exact record of immigrant arrivals by the St. Lawrence for a period of sixty-one years. It must be borne in mind, however, that all did not settle in Canada, large numbers of emigrants from Europe to the United States, especially those from Germany and Norway having used the St. Lawrence route because of the facilities it afforded. Nor is it, on the other hand, a record of the total immigration to Canada during the same period, since very many immigrants entered by way of the Maritime Provinces, while others came by United States ports.