

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS OF TODAY

The Eastern Townships of Quebec is one of the most steadily prosperous sections of Canada and the reasons for this are not difficult to assign. In the first place, the Eastern Townships does not depend upon any one or any two industries for its prosperity. It is the most important agricultural section of the province, and farming is of that mixed character which ensures an annual result which is not assured where the one crop system prevails. It possesses great mining and lumbering industries, involving an annual output representing in value many million dollars. Then there are the many industrial towns with extensive manufactories, employing thousands of hands, busy communities in themselves and affording ready markets for the farming districts. Therefore, it may be asserted at the outset, in considering the Eastern Townships today, that these southern counties of Quebec are, in a commercial sense, one of the best balanced sections of Canada.

The census of 1911 showed the population of the Eastern Townships to be as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Brome	6,871	6,345	13,216
Compton	15,655	13,975	29,630
Drummond-Arthabaska	21,233	20,357	41,590
Megantic	16,439	14,875	31,314
Missisquoi	8,893	8,573	17,466
Richmond and Wolfe ..	20,230	19,261	39,491
Shefford	12,145	11,831	23,976
Sherbrooke	11,648	11,563	23,211
Stanstead	10,301	10,464	20,765
Totals	123,415	117,244	240,659

The Eastern Townships, in area, comprises 4,314,882 acres and statistics indicate that only about 2,000,000 acres are, or have ever been, under cultivation. This fact is one of the most regrettable that one has to consider in connection with the Eastern Townships. The rural population is far less than the soil of these counties would support. Agriculture is