

II.—*Social and Economic Conditions of the British Provinces after the Canadian Rebellions, 1838-1840.*

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In 1838 the population of the five provinces of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, was estimated at about one million four hundred thousand persons. In Upper Canada, with the exception of a very few people of German or Dutch descent, and a number of French Canadians opposite Detroit and in the Ottawa Valley, there was a large British population of at least four hundred thousand souls. The population of Lower Canada had increased six times since 1791, and was estimated at six hundred thousand, of whom hardly one quarter were of British origin, living chiefly in Montreal, the townships, and Quebec. Nova Scotia had nearly two hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom probably sixteen thousand were French Acadians, resident in Cape Breton and in western Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick there were at least one hundred and fifty thousand people, of whom some fifteen thousand were descendants of the original inhabitants of Acadie. The island of Prince Edward had thirty thousand people, of whom the French Acadians made up nearly one-sixth. The total trade of the country amounted to about, in round figures, five millions of pounds sterling in imports, and generally less in exports. The imports were chiefly manufactures from Great Britain, and the exports were lumber, wheat and fish. Those were days when colonial trade was stimulated by differential duties in favour of colonial products, and the building of vessels was encouraged by the old navigation laws which shut out foreign commerce from the St. Lawrence and Atlantic ports, and kept the carrying trade between Great Britain and the colonies in the hands of British and colonial merchants, by means of British registered ships. While colonials could not trade directly with foreign ports, they were given a monopoly for their timber, fish and provisions in the profitable markets of the British West Indies.

Since the beginning of the century there had been a large immigration into the provinces except during the war of 1812. The large Scotch population which now exercises such large influence in Nova Scotia owes its origin chiefly to the immigration which came from the isles and northern parts of Scotland in 1801, and had brought in upwards of thirty