

ports with the best of fresh bait, and in a fortnight or three weeks return with from 500 to 1,000 quintals, which they land and hand over to the curers on shore, and having obtained a fresh supply of bait they resume their voyage. They can prosecute this fishery from the end of April till the middle of October. The bank fish bring the highest price in the market." A productive year in the fishery counts for much in a country so deeply interested as Canada is in this industry.

#### THE CANADIAN FRENCH ATLANTIC LINE.

Henceforth Havre and Halifax are to be united by a steam service, under the control of the *Compagnie Canadienne-française de navigation à vapeur*. The next vessel of the line is to bring an excursion party of representative men in various walks of life, with a pre-arranged *itincraire* which will take them as far as the Falls of Niagara, which, of all white men, were first seen by a French missionary. The Boards of Trade, in the different cities, will doubtless pay some attention to our visitors, whose numbers have been variously stated at from eighty to one hundred; and a comparing of notes may tend to solve the question whether an extension of commerce between the two countries can not be facilitated by a removal of the restrictions which now exist. The time has perhaps gone, in these days of iron vessels, when Canada could have advantageously furnished France with cheap ships, or the means to build them. Commercially, we have a right to complain that France turns the cold shoulder to her ancient colony. She refuses in her tariff arrangements to do us justice, to place Canada under the tariff which she applies to the most favored nations. We are not aware that Canada has done anything to merit this disadvantageous discrimination; if she has, and the French tariff be defensible, we may learn what it is. The point is one to which, should opportunity offer, Canadian Boards of Trade might advantageously lead the way. Though the pre-arranged excursion inland does not include a trip to the North-West, perhaps it may be possible to arrange an extension. In an international case, the civilities which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company extended to the members of the British Association, last year, could probably be counted upon.

There seems to be an expectation that this Canadian-French line of steamers will be the means of reviving emigration from France to Canada, which ceased in 1763, and which has so far had no noteworthy revival. The population of France does not increase; and the fact that the legislature has just provided for the education of every seventh child in a family seems to show that there is no redundancy to be regretted. For more than a century the French have not developed the colonizing spirit to an extent which their former enterprises of this nature seemed to promise. Father Labelle is doing what he can to reawaken the slumbering spirit of French colonization; and he has found in France some co-workers who are as enthusiastic as himself. But

his efforts are not confined to France; Belgium he regards as a promising field for his purpose, the faith of the emigrants being a consideration which is ever present in his mind. The average French emigrant would probably prefer a French colony, say Algeria, to Canada. But in Quebec the French emigrant would feel quite at home; every where he would hear his own language, and find the religion to which he has been accustomed. Father Labelle may make Quebec a competitor with Algeria for French emigrants. French Canadian colonization is scattering itself over the whole north country as far as Hudson's Bay; and the plans of its directors embrace a line of projected settlements along the Canadian Pacific Railway, north of lakes Huron and Superior. Should this enterprise be carried out, northern Ontario will become French. In the eastern counties of this Province, the wealthier class of the migrating French of Quebec, persons able to buy farms, is quietly increasing its numbers. The Eastern Townships were originally set apart as a boulevard between the French-Canadians of Papineau's time and the United States. The theory was that in these townships a British race, whose superior loyalty could be counted on, should be planted. But the difference on the score of loyalty, whatever it may have been before 1838, is no longer a thing on which it is possible to dwell; and in any case, the French-Canadians have taken up their abode in great and increasing numbers in the Townships. The fecundity of the race is great—a capacity of doubling the population every twenty-eight years is claimed—but the dream that it will ever rule America is not likely to be realized. Checks to the increase of population will be found in the conditions which exist in the manufacturing towns of the United States, where moreover the simple virtues of the *habitant* are not likely to be preserved, and where, in fact, unprejudiced witnesses tell us they are being rapidly lost. In colonization lies the greatest chance of increase; and the work of colonization is being undertaken with an earnestness and an energy which promise considerable results.

It is not of course possible to stop the current of emigration from the Province of Quebec; but what check it is possible to put upon it, is likely to be put by the men who have undertaken the direction of colonization. Remigration as a policy does not appear to succeed very well. It is hard to coax back men who, in the spirit of adventure which originated in the first movements of European colonization in America, have gone forth in search of new homes. There will always be a considerable number to whom the life on the farm appears dull and monotonous, and who long to exchange it for the excitement of a factory town. From paternal control and clerical direction others desire to escape. The rovers rarely return; and if they did return they would probably not find the conditions suited to the tastes which for weal or for woe they have acquired in their sojourn abroad. The future of the French race on this continent is to be read

in its fecundity. Increase of numbers at an abnormal rate is not an unmixed good; it deprives the bulk of the population of that modified leisure which is most conducive to intellectual development, and lowers the general average of intelligence, by lessening the opportunities of culture. There is no escape from this result, but in a slower increase which gives the opportunity of conquering leisure. Not that culture is neglected by the French Canadians; only the general average is less than it might and would be, if the increase of population were slower.

#### ASSIGNMENTS FOR CREDITORS' BENEFIT.

To the brief summary give last week of the evils of the present system of distribution in this province might be added another. Under that system, when an assignment is made secured creditors are allowed to rank with other creditors and receive dividend upon the full amount of their claims in the same manner as if they had not been secured and then hold their security for the balance owing them. This was manifestly unjust to the general body of creditors and ought to have been remedied long ago.

Assuming the constitutionality of the Act passed at the last session of the local legislature for Ontario, the law will be materially changed in this respect after the first of September. The changes may be summarised as follows:—

The second section of the statute relating to fraudulent preferences, before referred to, is repealed and re-enacted in a broader form. The difference is, that securities given by persons in insolvent circumstances are declared to be void if given with the intent to give a preference, or if they have that effect. This of course is aimed at the doctrine of pressure and ought to work a revolution on this point. Altogether it will probably be the most important change that the act will bring about in the law in this regard. We shall await with interest the attempts of legal ingenuity to evade this broader and stronger provision. Past experience in this direction forbids too great confidence that it will not be evaded. Certain it is, however, that the provision of the Act in this respect is an honest and apparently sufficient attempt to effect a needed change.

Next in importance to this change is another which makes the law applicable to real as well as personal property; and still another change makes void payments made, with intent to give a preference, within thirty days before an assignment is made. The weak point in this latter provision is, that the Act does not, because perhaps the legislature could not, enforce compulsory liquidation, and a debtor who desires to give a preference by payment has only to refuse making an assignment until the statutory time has elapsed. The possibility of getting a preference by judgment and execution is still further removed by the provision that an assignment shall supersede executions entirely, unless the process of the law has been completed by payment over of the money under the execution. The difficul-