

there is a falling off in the increase between 1860 and 1870 of 450, - 188 as compared with the increase between 1850 and 1860.

To recognize the full significance of a fact almost as alarming as a death warning, namely, that the increase for the last decennial period was but a trifle over 12 per cent., it is necessary to note that the population of England, in spite of immense emigration, increased between 1860 and 1870 over 13 per cent. Germany and Russia also showed a similar rate of increase.

Now assuming, and I think that the assumption is a fair one, that the longevity and fecundity of the people of Canada are not less than of the people of England, the ratio of increase in Canada should be equal to that of England, and taking into account the fact that between 1860 and 1870 there was a large emigration from England and a large immigration into Canada, it is evident that the ratio of increase in Canada ought in that period to have been greater than in England—as we have seen the Dominion census shows it to have been less.

Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners in their 32nd Report for 1871 make the following statement :

"Canada cannot at present absorb more than between 30,000 to 40,000 emigrants a year, and the excess beyond that number can obtain employment only in the labor market of the United States."

The truth of this statement has been strongly disputed by well-meaning but badly-informed persons in Canada, and the year book even, has designated it in an impulsive expression as "wholly gratuitous and unjustifiable."

Turning away from the debateable, vague and misty region of possibilities as to whether Canada can or "cannot absorb more than 30,000 to 40,000 annually," I content myself with calling attention to the fact that from 1860 to 1870 Canada did not absorb any population at all. As for this period Canada failed to make good the ordinary natural increase, it is clear that more people must have left the country than entered it.

Not only has the balance of immigration and emigration for the past ten years been against Canada as regards numbers, she has also suffered a serious loss as regards quality. She has lost part of the flower of the country, young men inured to Colonial life and full of energy and ambition, and their places have been largely filled by an inferior class of people.

In 1870, out of 24,706 immigrants, 9,787, about 40 per cent. were sent out by benevolent societies. Whilst according the highest admiration to those noble women who, moved by deep pity for the suffering poor, have rescued many thousands from an existence comfortless and dreary and opened out to them a future gladdened with hope, we have to acknowledge that the pauper popula-