

increased from 1,095 to 1,758, while that of the latter—the inland township—has declined from 1,610 to 1,389. Everywhere then, we notice that the influence of the increase of fruit-growing and market-gardening has been to increase the rural population, while the inland townships have shared the common depopulation of the ordinary Ontario agricultural community.

So far our illustrations have been drawn from a comparatively small area. In order to show that the decline is not merely a local phenomenon, we shall take cases from different parts of the Province.

The township of Oro in Simcoe reached its maximum population, 4,566, in 1881; in 1911 its population was only 3,485, a decline of 26 per cent. in thirty years.

The population of the township of Bosanquet in Lambton declined from 4,425 in 1871 to 2,491 in 1911, or forty-three per cent. in forty years.

East Nissouri in Oxford declined from 3,668 in 1871 to 2,623 in 1911—a loss of twenty-eight per cent. in forty years.

Otonabee in Peterborough declined from 4,261 in 1861 to 3,287 in 1911—a decrease of twenty-two per cent. in fifty years.

Osnabruk in Stormont declined from a maximum of 5,796 in 1881 to 4,170 in 1911—twenty-eight per cent. in thirty years.

Numerous other examples can be given, but the foregoing are sufficient to establish our general conclusion—that the population of the ordinary agricultural Ontario township to-day has declined from 20 to 45 per cent. from its maximum. This decline is, however, partially offset by the very considerable increase of late years in the population of fruit-growing and market-gardening districts. This latter increase is itself largely due to the rise of our cities, which provide a market for their products.

PRESENT DENSITY OF RURAL POPULATION.

It will now be worth our while to consider the present density of rural population in order to see what is the complement of human labour per square mile in the ordinary Ontario township. What is the average number of people living and labouring on and maintained by the products of the average square mile in an ordinary agricultural district? My general conclusion on this point is that the Ontario agricultural township averages about thirty persons to the square mile. This figure necessarily includes the population of small unincorporated villages—probably from one-fourth to one-third of the whole—so that only about twenty to twenty-three persons actually reside in the average square mile of agricultural land in a grain-growing and stock-raising township.

This conclusion was reached by taking various agricultural communities and dividing the aggregate population of the rural municipi-