

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Ontario, the most populous and wealthy Province in the Dominion of Canada, is situate to the north of the great lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and the river St. Lawrence. The Ottawa river, a splendid stream, divides it from the Province of Quebec on the east and north. And the New Province of Manitoba bounds it on the north and west.

It has an area of about 80,000,000 acres, or 122,000 square miles, being about equal in territorial extent to Great Britain and Ireland.

The population of Great Britain and Ireland is over 80,000,000. That of the Province of Ontario only 2,000,000.

After making due allowance for difference of climate, soil, and other conditions, as compared to Great Britain, it may be assumed with perfect safety that Ontario could sustain a population of at least 10,000,000.

The actual population of the Province, and the rate of increase at different periods is shown by the annexed table :—

1830 Census	210,437	1861 Census	1,396,091
1841 "	465,357	1871 "	1,620,851
1852 "	952,004	1874 estimate	2,000,000

From those figures it will be seen that the population in 1871 was about eight times that of 1830: a rate of increase, in the period of forty years, greater than that of the United States during the same time.

The Census of 1871 was made in the month of April; since which time three years of great progress in constructing public works and general prosperity have been enjoyed.

The natural advantages of Ontario are very great, being unsurpassed or unequalled by any Province in the Dominion, or any part of the United States. Its soil varies in different localities, a large proportion being of the very best description for agricultural purposes. Its water communication by means of the great lakes and the river St. Lawrence is unsurpassed. Its railways, gravel roads, &c., connecting with the leading provincial British and