

Now in the present humiliating condition of things, a question which has to be asked and must be answered is :—Is this Dominion of ours a premature creation? Have the people of British North America, carried away by the ambition of creating a vigorous Confederacy extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, attempted something which may or may not be born of the future but which is beyond the strength of this generation?

To many British Columbians there are few great subjects which appear as capable of demonstration as the necessity and practicability of Confederation—not as a delusive mirage existing only in appearances, but as a living progressive thing united in all its part by a great transcontinental railway :—

The evidence of this necessity is to be found in the Census of 1870 for Upper and Lower Canada. The following figures are from the Canadian Year Book for 1873, and as that publication has almost official recognition, no doubt they are substantially correct.

#### LOWER CANADA—QUEBEC.

1841, Population	661,380,			
1851,       “	863,860,	30.6	percent.	ratio of increase.
1861,       “	1,111,566,	28.6	“   “   “	“
1871,       “	1,191,575,	7.2	“   only.	

It will be observed that whilst the Province increased 247,706 between 1851 and 1861, it added only 80,009 from 1861 to 1871, a falling off in the increase of 167,697 in this decennial period compared with the one preceding.

#### UPPER CANADA—ONTARIO.

1841, Population	465,357,			
1851,       “	888,840,	91.01	percent.	ratio of increase.
1861,       “	1,396,091,	57.06	“   “   “	“
1871,       “	1,620,851,	16.09	“   only.	

It will be observed that whilst this Province increased 507,251 between 1851 and 1861, it added only 224,760 from 1861 to 1871 a falling off in the increase of 282,491 in this decennial period compared with the one preceding.

It will also be observed that the falling off in increase as regards numbers was far greater in Ontario than Quebec.

Taking the Canadas collectively, we find that whereas between 1850 and 1860 the population increased 754,957 or 43 per cent, between 1860 and 1870 the increase was only 304,769 or a trifle over 12 per cent. Notwithstanding that the immigration between 1860 and 1870 was within 14,000 of that between 1850 and 1860,