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THE CANADIAN CENSUS OF 1871.

BY ARTHUR HARVEY, F.S.S.

THE census of 1861 gave to Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, about three million souls, and if these Provinces had continued to increase until 1871, as fast as they were said to have done for the ten preceding years, they would now have numbered four millions and a quarter, instead of under three millions and a half.* The difference between the anticipated figures and the actual statement is grave and the public are as steadily denying the accuracy of the recent census, as the officials are upholding it. It does not follow from the fact that the general expectation has been disappointed, that the officials are mistaken.

The previous census, both of 1851 and 1861, or either of them, may have been wrong, and the difference thus be easily accounted for. Still, the system of enumeration adopted in 1871 is more likely to have brought about an under than an over statement of numbers, and critical examination should, in the first place, be pointed in this direction.

The census of 1861 was taken in one day; and the *de facto* population, that is, the population actually there, was assigned to each house, village, county, city. The census of 1871 was intended to assign to each Province its *de jure* population, or the population that should of right have been there,

* The last two census compilations shew the following results:—

| | 1861. | 1871. | Increase. | In. pr. cent. |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Ontario | 1,396,091 | 1,620,842 | 224,751 | 16.10 |
| Quebec | 1,111,566 | 1,190,505 | 78,939 | 7.11 |
| New Brunswick..... | 252,047 | 285,777 | 33,730 | 13.38 |
| Nova Scotia | 330,857 | 387,800 | 56,943 | 17.21 |
| | 3,090,561 | 3,484,924 | 394,363 | 12.76 |

Entered according to Act the of Parliament of Canada in the year 1872, by Adam, Stevenson & Co., in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture.