

the sanguine expectations that were formed when the Canadian Pacific Railway was in the early days of its construction, and when everybody was enthusiastic about the great future before the country and the rapid influx of people destined to occupy its millions of acres of fertile land, that was believed to be inevitable as soon as it was made accessible to the struggling agriculturists of Europe. There are not a few who are disposed to cast doubts upon the accuracy of the figures, but that is sure to be the case in the circumstances. In some districts there are rumours of recounts, and in Victoria and in Vancouver the city authorities claim that local returns show the population, in each instance, to be more by some thousands than is disclosed in the official calculations. That part of the subject may, however, be left to take care of itself; but it is an acknowledged fact that the system of enumeration adopted this year differed materially from that formerly used, in the following important respect. In 1881, all the absent members of families likely to return to their homes some time or other are said to have been included; while, in 1891, only those expected within twelve months were counted. Having regard to the number of Canadians living in the United States, it will at once be seen that many persons must have been excluded from this year's statements who would have been entered on previous occasions. Precautions were also taken to prevent the duplication of entries, which were known to have previously occurred. The adoption of this obviously more accurate method of counting of course tends to lessen the value, for purposes of comparison, of the figures taken in years gone by under different conditions. It is estimated also that the population of Ontario alone is less by 182,000 than it would have been had the birth-rate of twenty years ago been maintained.

Two interesting conclusions, both referring almost entirely to the older provinces, and bearing specially on the subject under discussion, are to be drawn from the returns so far published. (1) That in many of the rural districts the population has not increased; in fact, the increase under that heading for the entire Dominion only amounted to 120,455, of which by far the larger proportion, indeed nearly the whole, must be credited to Manitoba and the North-West territories. (2) That there has been a considerable movement to the cities and towns, not only from the country divisions, but on the part of the immigrants. The urban population of the Dominion is now 1,394,259, an increase of 384,146 since 1881, equal to 38.1 per cent. In 1891 there were forty-seven cities and towns with a population of over 5,000, as against thirty-five ten years ago. In the same period, the towns of from 3,000 to 5,000 inhabitants increased from thirty-eight to forty-five; and the villages containing 1,500 to 3,000 people from fifty-five to ninety-one. It is evident therefore