

ties is returned at one-half or one-third of the general average. One of these 35 cases is one of apparent, extravagant exaggeration, precisely of a similartype as the case mentioned in regard to the wheat crop: sub-district *h*, Village of Les Cèdres, District 74, Soulanges, with 25 acres, be it remarked *twenty-five* acres, is credited with 2,825 tons of hay instead of 23, an error coming from the fact that the hay crop was reported at 2,825 bundles, which should have been reduced into tons, as was done for all other such returns. This error is one of those escapes of attention very apt to be committed in such a multiplicity of details, but which, after all, is only a drop when diluted in the total. The wonder is that no more of such errors have been found, after a diligent and earnest search for them by ill-disposed critics, through the intricacies of the hundreds of columns, the thousands of lines and the myriads of figures contained in the Census.

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*In a few districts the number of occupiers of lands is less in 1881 than it was in 1871.*

The critics have discovered that in 8 districts the occupiers of lands are, to a small extent, fewer in number according to the last Census than they were represented to be by the Census before last; on making that very marvellous discovery one of them exclaims:—"Who is to be held responsible for these discrepancies—Providence, the Exodus or "the compiler?" The answer is, there being no discrepancy between figures which cannot, by any possibility, be exactly the same, it follows that there is no responsibility to attach anywhere. This diminution in the number of occupiers simply means that there had been transactions by which some holdings have been added to others, giving in such cases one occupier, where there were two in 1871. Farmers sell to their neighbours or somebody else in their districts their holdings, to go and settle in other districts or in the west; it stands to reason that such transactions lessen the number of occupiers in the district where they take place, without injury to any one in particular nor to the country as a whole; nay to the marked advantage oftentimes to all concerned.

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*The Acreage of Lands Occupied in some Districts is given in 1881 as Smaller than it was in 1871.*

In this instance there would be a real discrepancy if it were in regard to information which could be expected to be mathematically exact and to agree; but on the least reflection any person would immediately perceive that such accuracy or agreement is an impossibility. How can you expect that thousands of farmers could, at ten years interval of time, and when a change of persons has taken place in many cases, give the enumerators the mathematically correct area of their holdings? The idea is preposterous. Out of the 34 districts inscribed on the list of the critics there are more than one-third of which the difference is not worth mentioning, one of them being so