

the same. The greatest productive portion of the United States lies east and west of Ontario, and immediately on the Southern boundary. A great deal of the transcontinental traffic of the United States passes in bond through southern Ontario. It will be seen from the above statements that southern Ontario is peculiarly favoured in her relationship to the other parts of Canada, and also to a large portion of the United States by both rail and water communication. Further, owing to the conformation of the province, she has water powers in abundance. She has also been blessed by nature with large supplies of raw products in her forests and minerals. As a consequence Ontario has become a great manufacturing province, by far the largest in Canada, and her growth in this regard is increasing more and more. The one thing in which she has been deficient and for which she had to depend upon the adjoining States is coal, but the extraordinary development taking place in the harnessing of her great water powers and the distribution of electric power will soon place her well-nigh independent of the coal fields of Pennsylvania.

One would expect to see a growth of towns and cities, and this is just what has been taking place. Toronto, the provincial capital, has increased in population at a tremendous rate during the past ten years, and so have scores of other places. As far as population is concerned this is the situation—the town and city population has during the past twenty years been increasing at a very rapid rate, while our rural population has just about held its own; in other words, while consumers of farm products have increased, producers have remained about the same. This alone would explain the much discussed question of the increased value of the products of field, garden, and orchard. To-day we are importing into Ontario some farm and garden products that we formerly produced in surplus, and those who are living on the land and are able to supply the labour necessary for their work within their own families are making money. This also accounts for the steady rise in values of land in many sections. You read a good deal in the press about increasing land values and rapid growth of towns and cities in Western Canada. It may surprise you to know that the very same thing is taking place in the Province of Ontario. Having made some reference to this central province which lies so favourably in the heart of the continent, which stretches 750 miles from salt water on the north to the fresh water lakes on the south, and 1,000 miles from Montreal on the east to the eastern boundaries of the great wheat-growing prairies of the west, it may be of some interest to know who are the people occupying it.

The first settlements began nearly 130 years ago, when, at the close of the war of American Independence, 10,000 Loyalists left the United States—or were driven out—to seek new homes