

Dominion. Illinois, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington and other new States exhibit an equally remarkable growth. The answer of Sir Oliver Mowat and the Tory knights is that rural New England is losing population. It is not, as anyone can see, a sufficient answer, but it is the only thing they can think of to set against the wonderful development in the Republic. Now, New England is not and never was a good farming region. The ice-cap which covered the continent ages ago left it strewn with rocks and bleak hillsides where the husbandman stands little chance with his competitor on good soils like those of Ontario and the Western States. Farming is being abandoned, as iron smelting was abandoned in Kent, because it can be carried on more profitably elsewhere. But the population which deserts rural New England does not desert the United States; it migrates beyond the Ohio or seeks employment in the workshops and warehouses nearer home, and still helps to build up the Union. No one would put Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces—Old Canada—on a level with New England as regards agricultural capabilities. The former possess as good a soil as is to be found in America outside the deep black loams of the North-West; indeed there are tracts in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as fertile as any under the sun. Furthermore, the Canadian provinces contain a wealth of lumber and fish surpassing that of New England in her palmy days, with a store of minerals, including coal and iron, such as she could never boast of. Nevertheless population in Old Canada is not increasing nearly so rapidly as in New England; and what is worse, the young men and young women who abandon those provinces do not move to the western lands in our own country but for the most part, as the census shows, go across the line. ^(a)

(a) The census returns of the older provinces for 1881-91 are here compared with the census returns for 1880-90 from the New England States:—

	1881.	1891.	Percentage of increase.
Ontario.....	1,923,228	2,114,321	9.93
Quebec.....	1,359,027	1,488,535	9.53
Nova Scotia.....	440,572	450,396	2.22
Prince Edward Island.....	108,891	109,078	0.17
New Brunswick.....	321,233	321,263	0.00
	1880.	1890.	
Massachusetts.....	1,783,085	2,238,943	25.57
Connecticut.....	622,700	746,258	19.84
Rhode Island.....	276,531	345,506	24.94
New Hampshire.....	346,901	376,530	8.51
Maine.....	648,936	661,086	1.87
Vermont.....	332,286	332,422	0.00