

exceeding by 2576 square miles the collective areas of Holland, Belgium, Portugal and Scotland, which together form an area of 90,776 square miles : Again, the territory included within the county of Pontiac almost equals the superficies of Belgium and Holland together.

V

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDED PROPERTY.

According to the data supplied by the census of 1881, of the 120,018,964 acres of land contained in the province of Quebec, 12,625,877 acres were at that time occupied by 123,932 proprietors, 12,344 tenant farmers, and 1,587 employees, and of the 12,625,877 thus occupied, 6,410,264 had been improved, — which probably means cleared — 4,147,984 acres were under crops, 2,207,422 acres in pasture, and 856 acres in gardens and orchards.

A comparison of these figures with those of the census of 1871 shows the following differences :

	1881	1871	Difference.
Number of acres occupied.....	12,625,877	11,025,786	1,600,091
“ “ improved.....	6,410,264	5,703,944	706,320
“ “ under crops.....	4,147,984	3,714,304	433,680
“ “ in pasture.....	2,207,422	1,943,182	264,240
“ “ in gardens and orchards....	856	46,438	45,602
“ “ proprietors.....	123,932	109,052	24,873
“ “ tenant farmers.....	12,344	7,895	4,449
“ “ employees.....	1,587	1,132	455

The average, per head, of the extent of land owned is 88.8 and that of the lands unoccupied 79.5 acres. The number of persons per square mile of territory is 7.2.

VI

SUPERFICIAL CONFIGURATION.

The province of Quebec is, so to say, enclosed between two mountain chains : the Laurentides to the north and Alleghanies to the south. These chains increase their distance from each other as they proceed from east to west. By their position, as well as by their geological formation, they constitute two distinct systems, although both are composed of sedimentary deposits in the metamorphic state. The mountains of the north-eastern chain are of a more crystalline nature and more ancient formation than those of the southern chain, as they belong to the azoic age, while those to the south belong to the paleozoic period. Between these two chains, there are in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and some of its tributaries the mountains known as Mounts Rouge, mont, Belœil, St. Therese and Mount Royal.

Laurentian System.—The general trend of the Laurentides is from north-east to south-west. From the eastern frontier of the province, that is to say, from Labrador, to the neighborhood of the Saguenay, the Laurentides form a sort of compact mass or barrier only broken through by the courses of the