

PROGRESS OF WESTERN CANADA.

We insert the following official document for the information of several parties on both sides of the Atlantic, who have sent us inquiries respecting the soil, climate, and social condition of the Western portion of the Canadian peninsula. It clearly indicates a healthy and most satisfactory rate of progress. When the great Western Railway is completed, and branches in connexion therewith made in different directions, the immense resources of this extensive, healthy, and most fertile tract of country, will be fully called forth, and it will then stand second to none on this continent as a field for enterprising and profitable industry. Notwithstanding the present rapid settlement of this Western portion of Canada, there will remain ample room for all comers for many years; and all persons coming from the Old Country with means, whether great or small, would do well to give this section of country a personal investigation before finally determining their locale:—

REPORT

*By the Clerk of the Peace of the United Counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce, upon the state of Crime within the said United Counties, during the year 1850.*

To the Honourable Board of Registration and Statistics, Toronto:

There are few circumstances in the history of an infantile settlement, more delightful to the statist or philanthropist, than the contemplation of the diminution of crime, and advancement of the prosperity of a people, or that tell more forcibly in favour of the good government of mankind, than when they are accompanied by active industry, full employment, and the real prosperity of a large, miscellaneous, and contented community.

Moreover, the facts which I am about to adduce in support of the above sentiments are big with inquiry and contemplation, both to the philosopher and the politician. Indeed it cannot be disputed in the present day, that the melioration of the condition of the people in all civilized countries under free and liberal governments, can only prosper and go hand in hand with just, equitable and humane legislation.

To the individual intelligence of the magistracy—now ramified over the length and breadth of the two senior counties—and by their benevolent and upright discharge of the administration of justice in accordance with the law of the land—to the absence also of political and sectarian animosity, but principally to the industry and morality of the people, are we mainly indebted for the remarkable diminution of crime which adorns the period in these united counties since the census in 1848.

But as facts are better than arguments, I shall

at once go to the proof, in as far as the documents in my possession, and the returns of convictions by the Magistracy, and the records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions are concerned; leaving the trifling matters connected with the Courts of Assize—over whose statistics I have no control—to speak for themselves in another place.

The population of the Huron District in 1841, was - - - 5,600  
In 1847, six years thereafter, 16,641...Inc. 11,043  
In 1848, one year thereafter, 20,450...Inc. 3,807  
In 1850, two years thereafter, 26,933...Inc. 6,483

The last quotation is nearly independent of the new and fast settling county of Bruce, which, owing to the infancy of its municipal institutions, only returned 360 persons for the townships of Huron and Kincardine, but which may now confidently be assumed to contain from 3000 to 4000 inhabitants—say 3,067—or a total population of the three united counties of - 30,000

Being an increase for 1849 and 1850 of 9,550

Or a total increase, since 1841, of - 24,400

An increase almost incredible, as, upon reference to Smith's work on Canada, it will be found that the Huron District has made more rapid progress since its first settlement in 1827, than Lower Canada did in one hundred and four years, its population then being (in 1721) 24,511.

It should be borne in mind that the population of the United Counties, by the census returns, is composed of natives of England, Scotland and Ireland, French Canadians, British Canadians, Germans, Dutch, United States, and other countries, living in peaceful neighbourhood, all rejoicing under twenty different sub-divisions of the Christian faith, but by hypothesis not likely to remain in good fellowship. Daily experience, however, proves the contrary.

As regards the statistics of crime—and really the piccadilloes committed in 1850 do not deserve so high a title—I shall first state those returned in 1848.

Convictions made by Justices in 1848,	174
Tried at Quarter Sessions, - - -	13
Deduct acquitted, - - -	7
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Total convicted in 1848, - - -	180
Convictions by Justices in 1850 - - -	120
Tried at Quarter Sessions - - -	1
Deduct acquitted, - - -	1
	<hr/> 120.

Decrease of convictions for 1850, -	60
Amount of fines, penalties or damages imposed by Justices in 1848, - - -	£112 19 8.
Amount imposed in 1850, £85 19 1	
Deduct amount remitted, 27 18 2	
	<hr/> 58 0 11

Decrease of fines for 1850, -	£ 64 18 9
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It is with no invidious feeling that I would here contrast the above with the statistics of crime for the city of Toronto for 1850, the number of parties apprehended there being 1,608, the city having a similar amount of population with the Huron. Such, however, is the melancholy