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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

CANADA'S PURCHASING POWER.

Every year sees a greatly increased purchasing power in Canada. In the past ten years, the Dominion has absorbed a million and a half citizens of other countries. At the same time there is a gratifying increase in the Canadian birth rate.

Every newcomer from other lands is a purchaser, and in addition brings considerable capital to the country. The half million British, the half million American and the half million continental folks who have come here for a livelihood during the past decade have brought with them not less than $500,000,000 in cash and settlers' effects.

In 1801 the United States claimed a population of about four millions, while now it is credited with nearly one hundred millions. At that time Canada was practically uninhabited; now it has a population of probably eight millions. Canada is not only absorbing the surplus population of over-crowded countries, but it is rapidly assuming importance as a country of food supply. A writer in the London Economist quotes some remarkable population figures. In 1801 the population of all Europe was 175,000,000. It is now over 438,000,000. In 1801 France was the leading nation of Europe, and with one exception had the largest population, 33,000,000. The only country which exceeded this was Russia with 36,000,000. At the same time the British Isles contained only 16,000,000 of people, while the German Empire with its 300 States, often at war with one another, had altogether only 25,000,000 people.

At that time Italy was divided into ten duchies, comprising 17,000,000 people, while Austria and Hungary together numbered only 25,000,000. In 1801 France had a population equal to one-fifth that of all Europe, while to-day its population is less than one-eleventh. While the population of Europe has increased by about 150 per cent., that of France has increased only 18 per cent., and now stands at 39,000,000, instead of the 33,000,000 of 110 years ago.

The population of Great Britain now exceeds 45,000,000, showing an increase of over 180 per cent. At the same time the German Empire has grown from 25,000,000 to a compact country having 65,000,000 of people. This is an increase of 152 per cent. Since 1801 Austro-Hungary has doubled its population and now has 50,000,000 people, while Italy with 34,000,000 has nearly doubled it. Russia shows an increase of nearly 200 per cent. and now has 138,000,000 of people.

In 1801 less than 200,000,000 men counted in the play of historic and political events, while to-day nearly 800,000,000 competent men are daily taking part in the struggle for existence.

These figures have a vital bearing upon matters such as consumption, food supplies, trade transportation and banking. The present drift of population is undoubtedly of vast benefit to the Dominion.